

THE LETTERS AND PRIVATE PAPERS OF
WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

4

VOLUME IV



THACKERAY IN 1863

From a photograph

THE LETTERS AND PRIVATE PAPERS OF

William Makepeace
THACKERAY

Collected and edited by

Gordon N. Ray



In four volumes

Volume IV: 1857-1863

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PREFACE TO VOLUME FOUR

The final volumes of this edition appear four years after I turned my manuscript over to Howard Mumford Jones on being ordered to active duty in the United States Navy. Such prolonged delay in publication, made inevitable by war-time conditions, has at any rate enabled me to relieve Professor Jones of the heavy burden of reading proof half way through Volume Three. I take this opportunity of thanking him once more for his generous services, without which no part of the edition would yet have achieved printed form.

Other obligations, contracted during my absence, must also be mentioned. Mr. Roger Scaife, who succeeded Dr. Malone as Director of the Harvard University Press in 1943, has been indefatigable in overcoming the many difficulties attendant on the publication of the *Letters*. Miss Eleanor Dobson of the Harvard University Press has supervised the printing of the edition with a constant vigilance that went far beyond the usual function of a publisher's editor. Phoebe deKay Donald has compiled the elaborate index which concludes this volume, thereby putting all students of Thackeray, and not least the present writer, in her debt. To turn to an obligation of another kind, belated but grateful acknowledgment is made to Macmillan & Company of London for permission to include FitzGerald's letters to Thackeray in this edition.

As was to be expected, a number of minor errors remain to be corrected.¹ One more serious question has been raised. Both Mrs.

¹ In Volume One: p.xc, for Adam's read Adams's; p. 3, note 1, for see below, No. 880, read see below, No. 882; p. 16, note 4, for (1819-1929) read (1819-1829); p. 398, for Cocher read Cocker. (*The mathematical and calligraphic manuals of Edward Cocker (1631-1675) had so great a vogue that the phrase "according to Cocker" became proverbial.*) P. 447, note 71, for novel read survey.

In Volume Two: p. 3, note 1, for Jeanne read Jean; p. 57, note 38, for No. 224 read No. 223; p. 160, note 64, for (pp. 274-190) read (pp. 274-290); p. 223, for respects to Mr. Pryme read respects to Mrs. Pryme; p. 240, for Mr. Bakewell's read Mrs. Bakewell's; p. 291, for Hampstead Court read

Fuller and Mr. Ritchie are convinced, from recollections of their grandmother as she appeared in old age, that the drawing reproduced in Volume One, opposite page 350, cannot be of Mrs. Thackeray. In the Huntington Library album where the original is to be found, this portrait is identified as being of "Mrs. W. M. Thackeray" in a letter of January 23, 1902, from J. M. Shawe, Warfield, Hampton on Thames, who also states that the drawings in this album can be vouched for "by my cousins Mrs. [later Lady] Ritchie & Mrs. Browne." It is possible, as Mrs. Fuller suggests, that the drawing in question may actually be of Mary Graham, though no final conclusion can be reached on the evidence at hand.

I write this preface from London, where a grant from the Guggenheim Foundation is enabling me to spend the summer in bringing together Thackeray's unpublished letters in English collections and in assembling other materials for his biography. A hasty preliminary survey, which is all that I have as yet had time to make, promises well for an interesting supplementary volume of Thackeray's correspondence drawn from holdings in Great Britain.

GORDON N. RAY

June, 1946.

Hampton Court and cancel note 53; p. 374, note 95, *for* fifth Earl, *read* second Earl; p. 469, note 260, *for* Charles Elton *read* Probably Arthur Elton; p. 530, *for* hausel, *read* hansel; p. 705, text and note 157, *for* St. Britins *read* St. Britius; p. 740, *for* D[obbins] *read* D[obson]; p. 826, note 164, *for* December, 1851 *read* January, 1852.

In Volume Three: p. 68, note 95, *for* Henry Thurstan *read* Henry Thurstan Holland; p. 360, *the correct date for Letter 1040 is* 26 March 1855.

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LETTERS, 1857-1863

1281. TO MAJOR AND MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
1 JANUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

January 1. 1857.

I was busy writing letters till after Paris-post hour last night, and so let us begin the first pen and ink work of the year with a word for my dearest old Granny & G P — not much more than a word — In this business on w^h I am engaged I dont seem to do or think anything or see friends or places or observe or remember — It is like a man playing at roulette, and winning, the whole world and his acquaintance and the newspaper &c being indifferent to him, as he eyes the ball turning round and time after time rakes up his winnings — Mine are growing bigger & bigger — We shall repeat the lectures in London 4 times before 10 February & get very nearly 250 £ for each set of lectures. In the spring they will doubtless bear other repetitions — Well, well, it is an unwholesome life, and when we have made a little more money there must be an end of the game. The game is so much in my favor, that yesterday I had all but treated the young ladies to a Brougham and a pretty little pair of horses w^h were to be had [at] altogether a fair bargain: but I thought I would have Higgins's advice first who is most learned in horse-flesh; and he would not hear of a purchase — one horse in London is as useful as 2, and I can hire one horse carriage coachman for 90 £ for six months, and the end was that my friend & the Brougham & horses drove away again. The Lords & Ladies I am told are very wroth that I should hold the Queens Uncle up to ridicule and I am to be out of favor henceforth — I'm rather glad having had enough of fine parties and not caring to drag about to balls as my daughters' chaperon. M^r Hayter,¹ the Whig Whipper in sent me a message about a borough (not Lis-keard) that he thought would suit me — but I sent him back my compliments, and said a man with independent means, who has 15000 subscribers to his books and can bring scores of thousands

¹ William Goodenough Hayter (1792–1878), later (1858) first Baronet, M. P. for Wells, 1837–1865.

of people with half crowns in their hands to hear his lectures — needn't go into Parliament as a Whig nominee — so if we do we'll go in independent — & try and see what that new life may be good for. It mustn't be for a year though or before we have made those 20000£ we talked of. These are visions all *en l'air* however. I think the idea of turning painter was knocked on the head at Glasgow where I was so confounded by M^{rs} Blackburne's prodigious genius and saw that she had a talent so infinitely superior to my little one — that I thought I had best blow that poor little farthing candle out, and think of it no more.

And now we have all been & had a jolly breakfast (& didnt I have a jolly sleep from 8 to 8 last night?) and the last words of conversation I heard were 'Minny what would you like for dinner?' Minny says gravely 'I should like a vol-au-vent.' Have a vol au vent you dear little women — I should like to hear, that our dear old folks had a comfortable New Years dinner and that my dearest mothers fever was relaxing its grip upon her. Quinine took away mine in the U. States and I liked it and drank it eagerly. But the girls tell me you are gone back to your globules, and what can I think or say but that beliefs are beyond compulsion, and that you must no doubt follow yours. If the girls come to you from 10 February till about Lady Day whilst I am in the north lecturing — you'll hardly take that charming companion — If you could find a cheerful brisk M^{rs} Gloynish kind of attendant she would do better perhaps than a genteel faded dame de compagnie — but here again you'll choose for yourselves — & none else can manage for you. The best way will be that Chéri should have both those shares in the canal — that will be paying back his great Grandmothers 450 £ w^h his parents gave over to me in better days when poor Mary's heart was more charitable. A man I dont like & dont know much but clever & learned & in distress got 100£ out of me yesterday — I know it was wrong but couldn't help helping him thinking of my own distress & how many a kind hand was ready to help me — and so the papers full & theres only room for a God bless my dear old Mother & G P from

W M T.

1282.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
6-8 JANUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

January 6-8. 1857.

My dearest Granny will have a long letter from her young ones to day, and mine will be only a scrap to be sent off when the sheet is full. So you have had a little return — well, may they grow littler & littler until they dwindle off into infinitesimality — But pray pray dont send away Martha. Remember how admirably attentive patient and good humoured she has been during your illness how she gave way to Eliza and wasn't jealous of that superior favorite how natural it is for a woman who has to pass night after night alone in that glum kitchen by that one candle to want companionship and amusement from time to time. *We* are no companions to servants, speak condescendingly to them for what we want, can't amuse or talk with them — Let them have their chance of friendship and freedom. their share of light & holyday out of doors. How good my 3 servants have been to us! If I am ill what care they take of me! What a little we pay them back! That word 'master' ought to be abolished I think, and have ideas of a small fund to be placed annually to their secret account and given to them when they leave or are sick or I die.

We have not been to see Mary yet — and it is a matter of very great difficulty. I will not go into a house where George Wood goes — drunk or sober, sane or mad, I wont meet the man who put his hand on my dear old G P's shoulder and uttered those monstrous calumnies about you — And I dont want him to lose the kind friends whom he has got in Charles & Mary or to be the means of thrusting the poor fellow from no doubt the only comfortable home and respectable fireside to w^h he is admitted. Nor do I choose that my daughters should be cast off and their acquaintance resumed at the will of any he or she in Christendom — this sort of humiliation is more than I can swallow, or submit to their

suffering — though my dear old Nanny wants to go, and my own heart melts as I think of the kind old Charles.

Thursday Just before setting out for Bath. Wasn't it odd that on the very day of writing this the Wood difficulty should be solved? M^r George comes drunk for the 10th time to Hyndford Castle — Charles begs him to go and George slaps him on the face! having on other occasions pinioned him got him down on the sofa and at dinner seized him by the throat and playfully put a knife to it! So Charles sends for me and I go and give Mary a kiss — and see as well as possible that we can't get on together. But at least there shall be peace if there cant (and oughtn't) to be love — we shall meet from time to time and be very decent good friends.

Applications for lectures keep pouring in. I dont know what the deuce it all means — but I must reap the corn stands and pocket these hundreds for the children's sake and hope for better days for my dearest old Mother.

Will you do me a favor? Will you see Olliffe (Hotel Talleyrand. R. St Florentin) and ask him to bring the very best French Ladys Physician in consultation? The idea of these sleepless nights and dragging fever, gives me many a bad night too. Hicks says most likely the Irish railway is wound up — the mortgage plan won't do because — never mind the because

Come Charles! pack the bag put in the 2 lectures let us be off with the girls in the brougham (only a hired one) to the Great Western Railway — and come back & lecture again on Saturday, and so work and work until it is time for rest. I have had serious thoughts of shutting up the house and coming off to you and working at my novel at Paris — but it's a pity, it's a pity. Dont you see G P and Granny that there's a great career before me if I will but run it? — and that for it I must be on the ground? — and yet it wd be sweet wouldn't it to retire and be a twopenny painter and say Get thee behind me Ambition — However no more about this for now God bless my dearest old mother & G P says

W M T.

1283.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH

9-12 JANUARY 1857

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxix-xxx.

This is begun in the beautiful city ² where Miss Ann Becher first danced with Captain G P. It is only 4 hours from London now by the slow train, as I came yesterday I thought of the supper at Marlborough and the York House coach. It was dark when I arrived I had to go to dinner and directly afterwards to my lecture-room — The room was crammed with 400 genteel folks and 350 of the vulgar The genteel could not understand what I was talking about I looked into their genteel blank faces and saw they were dullards The vulgar took the jokes understood the points laughed & cheered at the right places. Among the polite were many parsons. They rule here and tyrannize as all parsonic bodies do — A man who has been with me about more lectures this morning told me for taking a walk of a Sunday evening after Church where his clergyman had seen him, he was rebuked by his Reverence who said 'You had better have remained at home.' Between our side & their's ought there not to be war?

To day I get invitations from Ireland declined with thanks, from Devonshire, from Bath again and Bristol, from Yorkshire for the summer, where is this going to stop? What I said about 'a great career' is not swagger but a fair look at Chances in the face. Just when the novel-writing faculty is pretty well used up here is independence a place in Parliament and who knows what afterwards? Upon my word I dont seem much to care, and fate carries me along in a stream somehow — Shall I float with it or jump on shore? I shant be happy in politics and they'll interfere with my digestion — but with the game there, it seems faint-hearted not to play it. 'Retire and paint pooty little pictures' says Ease, perhaps Conscience: 'Retire and work at literature at history — But that game is very tempting. I wonder will it come off or whether this is mere idle vapping & dreaming? Did I tell you

² Bath. See above, No. 794.

about the Whigs whipper in sending to me about a seat in parliament? Sir says I with 15000 subscribers to my books, and hundreds of thousands of hearers all over England I'm not going to be a Whig under strapper? — (All this is *entre nous*) I think I did tell you — One of the obstacles to getting on perhaps is this dreadful want of memory. What is the use of forming plans & castles in the air? A hundred things may happen to knock down this one. Well, I shan't care.

Bob³ has just been here in pretty good spirits and I am to go and see his Baby between 3 & 5, poor fellow. And then to M^{rs} Forrest's and then to Impeys and then to dine again with the Thackeray cousins who won't hear of my eating at my own hour and send me choking into lecture.

I hear sad accounts of the Morning Herald⁴ — What a comfort it is to be a popular performer at such moments! — I know where there always are 50*£* for honest Paddy.

Monday — My dear old womans comfortable letter has just come in — the pleasantest I have seen for many a long day — & I send off my scrap with good news about all of us — I went to see Bob & his baby and the child is a perfect wonder — the finest child ever seen finer than M^{rs} Story's⁵ — the most jolly handsome broad chested fair-skinned little hero with a look of G P in the Hessian boot picture — and I saw M^{rs} Forrest & Emmy, and came away very much pleased with kind handsome Bath — where the Miss Thackerays have a house twice as big & handsome as mine w^h costs 700*£*.

It rains money — This morning I have arranged for 2 sets of lectures at Willis's & Brighton — the 8 hours will bring me four hundred pounds! — I have engaged for the month of April for twenty four lectures for w^h I am to be paid 1200 guineas! — perhaps we may have 2 or 3 months of this sort of money-making. Great Powers! it's prodigious — Meanwhile I don't think I've

³ Robert Forrest.

⁴ Of which Thackeray's friend John Frazer Corkran was Paris correspondent.

⁵ Waldo Story, whom Thackeray called "Henry the Eighth" (James, *William Wetmore Story*, I, 367).

above 100£ at Lubbocks or I would send Granny some — Mum about the price of the lectures. It seems a fable. If they come off I have promised Amy 100£. Have anything you like Dont stint God bless you my dear old Granny & G P. What a comfort to see your hand not shaking!

W M T.

1284. TO WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH

11 JANUARY 1857

Extract published in Ellis's *Ainsworth*, II, 194.

36 Onslow Sq^f January 11.

My dear Ainsworth

One more word to tell you again how extremely pained and annoyed I am that an old friend should have had to suffer such an inconvenience and such a seeming slight.

What has become of my letter saying that the whole party was put off? At Chapman's they remember receiving & forwarding it. The Saturday party fell to the ground on account of a series of 4 Saturdays being taken for a course of lectures — the only days available — and writing from the Club I think, without book I thought I was engaged on Wednesdays & Thursdays to lecture at Bath whereas I found it was on Thursdays & Fridays — rooms taken — word passed — impossible for me to do any thing but give up my dinner-party and apologize all round.

As soon as I heard you had been here I dashed into town in search of you — you cant imagine with what extreme sorrow for the contretemps. Like a kind fellow you must forgive me. The thing annoys me more than it can you — for how can I be other than pained at annoying an old friend whose early kindness & hospitality I always gratefully remember?

Now *do* do me a favor — Come up on Saturday 24th and hear the George III lecture it wont offend your loyalty — We'll dine at 5 and have a good bottle of Claret before we go — and I'll ask one or two cozy friends for Sunday 25th and my daughters will

make you welcome and I have a snug comfortable bed at your service — If you do this I shall know you have forgiven

Yours always.

W M Thackeray.

1285.

TO ?

13 JANUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e Jan 13.

Dear Madam

I kill George III at Reading on Monday 19 or I should have had much pleasure in coming to you.

Very faithfully yours

W M Thackeray

1286. TO WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH

13 JANUARY 1857

Extract published in Ellis's *Ainsworth*, II, 194; the whole letter in facsimile in Joline's *Rambles in Autograph Land*, pp. 193-194, from which my text is taken.

36 Onslow □ . Jany 13. 1857.

My dear Ainsworth

You'll think this correspondence is never a going to stop — and laugh when I tell you that here's *another* put off! — only from 5 to 6.30 however and I'll tell you why. Yesterday after my letter to you was dispatched M^r Beale⁶ comes to me for 4

⁶ Thomas Willert Beale (1828-1894), impresario and music publisher. The Brighton lectures must have proved remunerative, for Beale writes in *The Light of Other Days* (London, 1890), p. 254: "Not satisfied with having the German Reeds, Jullien and his band, Grisi and Mario, and nearly all the leading singers and instrumentalists of the day under engagement to me, early in 1857 I arranged with Thackeray for a second series of his lectures on 'The Four Georges,' the terms being fifty guineas a lecture for fifty lectures. The arrangement commenced in May, 1857, at Cheltenham, and continued at intervals during the summer." It is presumably the negotiations for this

1857

TO WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH

11

lectures at Brighton to be paid at the extremely moderate figure of 50 guineas per lecture — (this is between ourselves) The only days we could give them are Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday 24th at 3 o'clock — and I shall have to speak again in the evening here.

Now this is the plan of campaign. We start from Brighton⁷ by the 5 o'clock train — My servant is in waiting at the station to take our luggage. My (jobbed) Brougham whisks us off to Painters Ship & Turtle⁸ Leadenhall Street where a neat dinner awaits us a bottle of East India particular and one of Claret. at 7.30 the Brougham takes us to Edwards St.⁹ and at 9.25 whither we like first, and then home to the house where we all insist you must stop & sleep.

And so for the present farewell old friend. Who knows there may [be] ANOTHER letter yet? The Brighton Room may be engaged &c &c. About these matters due notice shall be given but on Saturday & Sunday 24.25. please the Lord you dine with

Yours always

W M Thackeray.

I find I write upright with the steel pens slanting with the quill.¹⁰

second series that Hodder describes in *Memories of my Time*, pp. 268–272. Thackeray continued to lecture on his own account until his contract with Beale began.

⁷ Ainsworth lived at 5 Arundel Terrace, Kemp Town, Brighton, from 1853 to 1867 (Ellis, *Ainsworth*, II, 192–193).

⁸ George Painter, Ship and Turtle, 129–130 Leadenhall St., City (*London Directory*, 1855).

⁹ The Marylebone Literary and Scientific Institution, 17 Edwards St., Portman Square (*London Directory*, 1855).

¹⁰ The bulk of the letter is written in Thackeray's upright hand, the last four words in his slanting hand.

1287.

TO ?

17 JANUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq: W S.

January 17, 1857.

Sir

I thank you for your note and grieve to hear the melancholy end of poor Mr Jeffries¹¹ — I don't touch on his affair in my lecture nor on many another point to the discredit of that unhappy George IV.: though I may have to speak on the subject when I publish the lectures in an enlarged form. Believe me

Yours very much obliged

W M Thackeray.

1288.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH

23 JANUARY 1857

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxviii-xxix.

Jan. 23.

Before bowling off to Brighton I think I ought to write a scrap to my dearest old Mammy — with the usual announcement, that there's nothing to say immense quantities of the same to do — endless letters constant running from place to place — not particular good health but it can't be helped; and the illness over

¹¹ When George IV was Prince of Wales, he bought his jewelry (on credit, as was his custom) from a certain Nathaniel Jeffrys. After waiting some years for payment, Jeffrys brought suit and recovered a large sum for the jewels he had supplied. He shortly afterward went bankrupt, notwithstanding his legal success, and appealed for help to his former patron. His pleas proving futile, he wrote a series of pamphlets attacking the Prince. One of these, *A Review of the Conduct of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales*, attained great notoriety because it gave renewed currency to an old topic of scandal, the relations between the Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert. In his note above Thackeray perhaps refers obliquely to this delicate subject, to which he devotes only one sentence in his lecture on George IV, rather than to the troubles of Jeffry, who was very small game.

the best way is to shake it over and think no more about it until the next time I am down. Tomorrow I lecture in Brighton at 2, in London at 8 — I have had a couple of days rest and solitary dining at Club, w^h has done me good. The town is at present placarded with my name in enormous type announcing my lectures at the Surrey Zoological.¹² The bigwigs and great folks are furious. The halls of splendor are to be shut to me — and having had pretty nearly enough of the halls of splendour I shall be quite resigned to a quiet life outside them. I hope my dearest old Mothers improvement goes on a-bettering. How about the girls if they come in February? Where can they be stowed? — I think I ought to send Gray over with them this time. The poor woman has had months of lonely watching in the house here, & deserves an outing. Or perhaps I can get Eyre to come and stay with his sister here — hire a second maid for the time, and keep the house inhabited. The money bag is quite full again though to be sure there are awful pulls on it M^{rs} Bakewell has just had one. The poor thing's house was robbed of linen forks money coats boots brandy wine — and I have had to pay her rent and her income tax and keep her out of utter bewilderment and ruin. O thank God for the full money-bag! And there is plenty more coming in 500£ more in the next 3 weeks at least so that my dear old folks may spend t'other side of the page with comfort and a knowledge that there's lots more when this little supply is used up.

Sunday we are to have dinner for Ainsworth my old friend between whom & me there has been a sort of a coolness since I have got on in the world & he has got off — and that I think is all

¹² "MR. THACKERAY will deliver his series of LECTURES on the FOUR GEORGES, in the Music-hall, at the Royal Surrey Gardens, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., Friday, the 30th inst., and Monday and Tuesday, the 2d and 3d February, commencing at 8 o'clock in the evening precisely. Admission to area and upper galleries, 1s.; reserved seats, 2s. 6d.; orchestra chairs, 5s., or 15s. for the four lectures. Tickets may be obtained at the Royal Surrey Gardens; at Jullien and Co.'s, 214 Regent-street; and at Keith, Prowse, and Co.'s, 48 Cheapside. The reserved seats being limited in number, early application will be necessary to secure them." (*Times*, January 26)

my news for my dear old Mother & G. P. I thought Georgy Forrest very nice ladylike and grown quite good looking — It was queer to see the old Montague Place furniture and the side-board where I stole the olive when I was a boy ¹³ — M^{rs} Forrest very cheerful & in wonderful good case — Bob and his baby I think I told you must be put into a book. Shall I ever write one again? — Some day please God when these astonishing Georges have put a few thousands more into my pocket. And now, Come Charles! Pack up the bag & lets be off to London Super Mare, after a kiss to the girls and a God bless you to their dear Granny & G. P.

1289.

TO ?

30 JANUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
January 30. 1857.

Dear Sir

My rule has been never to solicit a favorable notice from a critic, and never to thank him, w^h is as it were a request for future favors. But of course I am glad when I hear that young men like my books, and read them aright — knowing very well the common cry against me that I am misanthropical bitter & so forth, whereas, please God, my heart is full of anything but unkindness towards the people who believe me such a cynic. No human brain is big enough to grasp the whole truth — and mine can take in no doubt but a very infinitesimal portion of it but such truth as I know that I must tell, and go on telling whilst my pen & lungs last, and the public and the author are not weary of each other. I am pleased, you may be sure, if you or any other educated man likes my books, and can never be indifferent to the expression of honest good will.

I hope the monotony of the Speaker the other night was greater than usual. I didn't know what the circumstances were, was greatly annoyed by people coming in 1/2 hour after the time — and besides

¹³ Presumably at the home of Dr. Turner.

was just getting ready for a fever and ague fit w^h I had an hour after the lecture.

Believe me your very faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

1290.

TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN

8 FEBRUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W. Feb 8.

My dear Elwin. A hurried line to pay a debt and to beg a favor. A M^r Gale, a Winchester & Oxford man wrote me an interesting letter regarding himself and his desire to work as a man of letters, and he sent 2 pleasant books on Cricket & School life ¹⁴ w^h amused me, and w^h I almost remember though I read & burned them 2 years ago. Then he tried, me adjuvante, to write for Parker & couldn't get a place in his magazine.¹⁵ Now he has tried yet again, and his subject is novel practical & interesting. 'The Progress of a Railway Bill' I should say promises a good article from a man who knows about it — M^r Gale it appears is Manager in a great Railway Solicitor's house — quite a gentleman in manners — might do for you. Will you, whose mission is to do kindnesses, read his paper & see if he can serve the Q. R.? — And so let us pass over M^r Gale, and get on to that other case. Well sir here it is [*sketch of hand pointing*]

I mean the cheque on the opposite page for young Abeckett. Wasn't it artful of me to bring the page up to this very point, and relieve your mind?

On Tuesday I go off again on a 2 months Northern Tour, in April have sold myself to M^r Beale for an immense bribe some 1500£ per month — and if I can last on till the end of June at this kind of work, shall have filled a wonderful money-bag.¹⁶ My

¹⁴ See above, No. 717, note 129.

¹⁵ *Fraser's Magazine*. "The Progress of a Railway Bill" did not appear in *The Quarterly Review*.

¹⁶ "Thackeray is flourishing," Albert Smith writes to John Blackwood about

girls remain here — We are all very glum at the idea of going away and talk common-places to each other as if we were cheerful and didn't mind it. My dear old friend H. Davison goes to Madras as Puisne-Judge tomorrow and saying good bye to him is rather an awful thing, when one thinks how he is 50 and in bad health, and I not very young nor very well. I've no news I think. I haven't even read Lord Raglan in the last Quarterly¹⁷ and only little bits of the cuts in the Sunday papers. Good bye, dear Elwin, and believe me always yours

W M Thackeray.

Mind there's more money whenever you want it.


1291.

TO FREDERICK COZZENS
8 FEBRUARY-5 APRIL 1857

Published in part, *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 336-338.

36 Onslow Sq: London.


Feb 8 — (It's a Sunday evening) and Im waiting for dinner & thats how you come by an answer

My dear Cozzens. Thank you for a sight of your hand writing, and the kindly reminiscences of those jolly Centurions¹⁸ whose hospitality and affectionateness this  never intends to forget. What pleased me most in your letter is to have it under your own hand & seal that you are well — I should like to see those pretty little chicks again — that snug cottage — those rosy-tinted palisades that dining-room cupboard up w^h victuals came

this time. "Forbes is very funny about him. He told him the other night at the Garrick that as he was making such a pot of money with his four Georges, he had better go on with the eight Henrys, and then the Sixteen Gregories; by which time the public would be so exhausted that he had better wind up with the *One John* — and that (as Jerrold said) a *cheap* one!" Everyone is pleased, Smith goes on to say, with George Eliot's "The sad fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton," which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* in January and February, 1857. "Thack.'s eyes sparkled through his spectacles as he spoke of it yesterday." (Mrs. Porter, *John Blackwood*, p. 43)

¹⁷ January, 1857, pp. 168-202.

¹⁸ See above, No. 999, note 208.

with clangor — that snug bed-room where the celebrated Thacker left the razor strap and could hear for hours Judge Daly talking talking into the midnight. My dear old Judge — I havent forgot what I owe him — I dont like to send it until I hear whether he is married or not;¹⁹ — there was a hitch men told me — the course of true love didnt run smooth — Enlighten me some of you about this and let me pay my debts to my kind host & friend. Where Bayard may be now the Loramussy only knows We liked his pretty sisters, we had brief glimpses of a jolly time together²⁰ — We hope to meet in April or May when I bragged about taking him into the fashionable world. But I hear that I am in disgrace with the fashionable world for speaking disrespectfully of the Georgyporgies — and am not to be invited myself, much more to be allowed to take others into polight Society. I writhe at the exclusion. The Georges are so astoundingly popular here that I go on month after month hauling in fresh bags of sovereigns, wondering that the people are not tired & that the lecturer is not found out — Tomorrow I am away for 2 months to the North — have found a Barnum who pays me an awful sum for April & May and let us hope June — shall make 10000 £ by my beloved monarchs one way or the other — and then and then & then — well I don't know what is going to happen — If I had not to write 20 letters a day on business I would have written to George Curtis, and given him an old man's blessing on his marriage — But I cant write — no, only for business or for money can this pen bite this paper — As I am talking nonsense to you — all the fellows are present in my mind, I hear their laughter & talk, and taste that 44 Chateau Margaux — and that Champagne do you remember? — And I say again I would like to  see those pretty little chicks. So the Athenæum assaults you²¹ — to

¹⁹ Judge Daly married Maria Lydig of New York in 1856.

²⁰ On August 4, 1856, Taylor noted in his diary: "Thackeray was in London, and I found him as jovial and as tender-hearted as ever. His daughters came to see the girls, took them out driving a whole afternoon, and we all dined together in the evening." (Marie Hansen-Taylor and H. E. Scudder, *Bayard Taylor*, I, 321)

²¹ A brief and contemptuous notice of Cozzens's *Sparrowgrass Papers* ap-

you now! I never heard of the circumstance — the shot is fired, the report is over, the man not killed — the critic popgunning away at some other mark by this time — and you I hope you are writing some more of those papers. Your book & Bayard Taylors helped me over the voyage — How curious it is writing! I feel as if I was back again in New York and shaking hands with 100 of you — the heart becomes warm — God bless all good fellows say I. Shall I ever see you all again? Providebit Dominus.

I forgot whether you know Bancroft Davis — The folks here are hospitable to him. He has a pleasant time. Yesterday we elected him into the Garrick — and on the mantelpiece in my dining room is a bottle of Madeira w^h he gave it me and w^h I am going to hand out to some worthies who are coming to dine — They have never tasted anything like it — thats the fact — As I go on twaddling I feel I MUST come back & see you all. I praise M^r Washington five times more here than I did in the States — Our people cheer — the fine folks look a little glum but the celebrated Thacker does not care for their natural ill-temper. Only 2 newspapers here have abused me, & I have been quite on their side.

April 5. To think this was written on Feb 8 and left in my portfolio! I went out of town the next day only returned April 3 — have been killing & eating the Georges ever since. I do not know what this letter is about — I am not going to read so much M. S. if I can help it — but I remember, when I wrote it, how I had a great desire to commune with my old chums at New York and hereby renew the kindest greetings to them. Tell me, Judge Daly, are you married & happy? If so I will send you them books I owe you. Poor Kane! ²² I grieved to think of that hero carried so soon out of our world. There — I can no more — Goodbye my dear Cozzens — I salute you my excellent Century — G Curtis & Young & Daly I am

Yours always

Will. Thackeray

peared in *The Athenaeum*, September 20, 1856, pp. 1164–1165. The book of Taylor's to which Thackeray refers below was probably *Poems of Home and Travel*, published in November, 1855.

²² Elisha Kane died on February 16, 1857.

1292. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

13 FEBRUARY 1857²³

My text is taken from *Unpublished Letters by W. M. Thackeray*, ed. Clement Shorter, pp. 19–20; the drawing is reproduced from *Thackeray and his Daughter*, p. 108.



White Swan
Halifax
Friday.

My beloved

Although I am still at Halifax instead of going to Sheffield, yet I am greatly better have just eaten 2 wings of a fowl for dinner and wished the pore burd had 4, and have no doubt after the prodigious discipline I have undergone that I shall be able to get through the rest of the campaign without trouble. Min's letter arrived from Leeds this morning — so that was as good as another letter from home. I have been reading Mahon²⁴ with great comfort — am quite brisk and gay in my spirits, though a trifle weak, and though for reasons w^h my blushes forbid me to mention I am not quite good for a public lecture tonight. Never mind. Tomorrow will begin again. We won't lose heart for a little check or two. I think the D^r I have had here is about the best of them all. His name is Garlick and I like him both in cookery and as a medical man.

God bless my women. Write a famous account of me to Granny, and so good night says Papa.

²³ Written the Friday before Tuesday, February 17, 1857.

²⁴ See No. 1293, note 26.

1293. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY
17 FEBRUARY 1857

My text is taken from *Thackeray and his Daughters*, pp. 107, 109-111, where the first page is reproduced in facsimile.





Royal Hotel Sheffield
Chewsd. 17 Feb^r



This comes rather late for Valentines day — It is copied from 6 mugs in my sitting room at the horrible inn at Halifax. This is a byootiful Inn. I have the gayest parlour looking over three smoky cheerful streets — a clean snug bed room — a snug sleep — a pleasant book to read — Colonel and Mrs. Forrest came to tea last night after the lecture that's why I didn't write to the girls. I liked them both, she pretty and blonde, he very gentlemanlike. The people for the most part didn't understand

a word of the lecture. Old Foggy President of Institution introduced me and insisted upon toddling into the room with me on his arm. What, is Mr. Thackeray infirm? asks Mrs. F. of her husband. It was Old Foggy who was infirm. I had a very pleasant calm day at Fryston, and yesterday for dinner here ate a pheasant, one of a brace which old Mr. Milnes insisted on sending to my daughters, though I told him I wasn't going home. The last time I was at F. in the year 41,²⁵ Mrs. Milnes gave me a ribbon and a little étui, a something for my children — they were little trots of small size then — and she has been in Kingdom Come these 10 years I believe.

I wish those horrible newspapers would leave my health out. Some day the wolf will really come and no one will be frightened. Keep off Wolf for a few months! I want to put my lambs in comfortable shelter.

I am in the 4 vol. of Mahon.²⁶ It amuses me. I have read Cockburn's *Memorials*,²⁷ very pleasant too. It is delightful weather and the skeei is blyew through the smoke. Poor old Brookfield was born here my  feels very soft towards him. Do you smell anything in  this ink? It was thick, and I filled the bottle with brandy and soda-water. I have nothing to tell my dawlings but that I am very well busy and cheerful. I go to Leeds lecture, and come back tonight to York. I like the quarters I am in. So you may go on directing to this Royal Hotel till Saturday. I mean you may send by Friday night's post. I am glad you liked the drive to Q, never mind the 2/6.

Write to Granny and tell her how cheerfully your dear father writes and God bless my women says Papa.

²⁵ See above, No. 203. Milnes's mother died on May 1, 1847.

²⁶ *History of England from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Versailles. 1713-1783.* Volume IV covers the years 1749 to 1763.

²⁷ *Memorials of his Time* (1856) by Henry Cockburn (1779-1854), Judge of the Court of Session from 1834 till his death.

1294. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY
22 FEBRUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Sunday. Feb 22

C. E. Ellison ²⁸ Es 3 George St East. Newcastle

My dearest women. I hope you'll be able to go to Lady Molesworth & Lady Lyttleton ²⁹ if there's any shaperoom. I write to Chesham Place to see if the lady from there is going to Lady M. You must send me that Atlantic Telegraph letter it's — no, stop! send it with the accompanying note addressed to Sir John Lubbock Bart & Co.

11 Mansion House St
City.

And in a day or 2 a receipt will come back from Lubbocks w^h you will put on the files in my study. I arrived quite comfortable last evening gave me lecture w^h is getting so stale now that I'm not even disgusted any more and forget all about it — and am staying in a very comfortable house with a nice pretty little married couple. He is Police Magistrate here — He & Tom Taylor used to live in the Temple together, and had my name on the door. He is at church with his pretty wife now over the way, whilst your Pa is sitting & writing in the dining-room. But though I'm not at Church I think I say my prayers & thank God too — for good children — for loving them — for the penny post that enables us to talk to each other day by day — for the railroad that whisks me about to get this money for them — You see without railroads I couldn't have made this little fortune w^h is dropping into us, Sheffield, York to Newcastle w^d have been 40 hours journey instead of 5 1/2 without any fatigue. Thanks be to God

²⁸ Cuthbert Edward Ellison (1818?–1883), whom Thackeray had known as a barrister of the Inner Temple. He was police magistrate successively at Newcastle (1854), Manchester (1860), and London (1864).

²⁹ The former Mary Glynne (1813–1857), who had married Brookfield's friend of the fourth Baron Lyttleton in 1839.

for his kindness to us on Quinquagesima Sunday and all other days in the year. I am glad you have seen poor old Charles. I am pained not at his wife's wit, but that she should have a cold heart. If she had had a good one, she never would have turned away relatives whom she had injured and slighted and who called to shake hands & be friends with her. She might have had her drive 5 minutes later and seen us although it was only 12/30 o'clock.

— Here lunch came in and stopped the sermon, & after lunch it is decreed that we are to go by railway to Tynemouth 10 miles off, walk by the stormy sea-shore and get an appetite for dinner. So I must shut my packet up, and send a balessing to my daughters from their dear Pa.

1295. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

FEBRUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Only a line to day to tell you how I am come back from Carlisle and how it is the prettiest 3 hours possible of drive — I wonder whether we shall ever come & see it? — Think we shall. I am very sorry about my dear old Granny.—anxiety was 1/2 the cause of her bad nights — If I were to have 3 or 4 of them I should be more nervous than she — But Law how I do sleep! I am going to the Blackwoods for next Sunday from Carlisle, and to the Queens Hotel Glasgow afterwards — and the fine weather has broken up, and I am very well to day, and M^{rs} Ellison is doing everything to coax cuddle comfort me, and it will very soon be the end of March though to be sure it seems a year since I left home. Never mind, there's a good time coming — Good bye my pooty ooty little dears. Give my best regards to Lady Elizabeth — Drive about — make yourselves ahappy and think with respect of your

Pepar.

4 letters about lectures again to day. It isnt near over.

1296.

TO A. EDMONSTON ³⁰

26 FEBRUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Newcastle on Tyne. Feb 26.

Dear M^r Edmonston.

I am very sorry indeed to hear of your calamity. Eighteen years ago I endured such a one myself: ³¹ suffer from it even now sometimes, and can fully & heartily sympathize with those who are visited with so severe an affliction.

I propose to come to my friend M^r Blackwood in Randolph Crescent for Sunday 1, & a part of Monday m^s until it shall be time to set forth for Glasgow. Perhaps you will make it convenient to call upon me on Monday m^s about 11? I look at the new programme as settled by M^r Wood with some alarm — It involves a great deal more travelling than your first proposed plan, and by any study of Bradshaw I can't land myself at Kirkcaldy — perhaps you will be able to make this clear for me when we meet.

I have already refused the hospitality of M^r Crichton of Cupar, but if your friend lives in the place must do honour to your acceptance and his hospitality. I hope though I hardly expect I shall be able to carry through the months campaign without some such check as I met at Halifax — We must do the best & hope for it meanwhile —

Believe me very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

³⁰ An Edinburgh bookseller.

³¹ The death of his second daughter, Jane Thackeray, on March 14, 1839.

1297.

TO JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS

26 FEBRUARY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Newcastle on Tyne. Feb. 26.

My dear Millais.

I thank you very much for your proffered hospitality. I wonder can I accept it and how I am to get from Kirkcaldy where I lecture on the 10th to Perth where I am set down for lecturing the next day — On the 12th I am to be at Dundee: and about that horrible Kirkcaldy can make out nothing after the most desperate study of Bradshaw. You at Perth will be best able to judge what will be the best plan for me — whether, by the nature of things, I shan't arrive late — whether I shan't have to set off early the next morning to keep my Dundee engagement, and whether under these circumstances I had not best go to an Inn where beds are always ready porters and cabs are always in attendance &c — Likewise I am obliged to travel with a servant owing to obstinate attacks of Roman (bilious) fever w^h has had hold of me these 4 years past, and seizes and prostrates me every month or so. If, considering these things, you think a Hotel the best place for me, perhaps you will decide *against* my coming to you. But the offer of hospitality is equally kind on your part and M^{rs} Millais' & I am very much obliged to you for proposing to have me as your guest.

Always sincerely yours
W M Thackeray.

1298.

TO JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS

3 MARCH 1857

My text is taken from John G. Millais's *Life and Letters of Sir John Everett Millais* (London, 1899), I, 277.

Queen's Hotel, Glasgow,
March 3rd.

My dear Millais, — I got the sad news at Edinburgh yesterday — that there is to be no lecture at Perth, my manager not having been able to make arrangements there. So I shall lose the pleasure I had promised myself of seeing you and Mrs. Millais, and the pictures on the easel, and the little miniature Millais³² by Millais, which I hope and am sure is a charming little work by that painter. I am off in a minute to Edinburgh for Kirkaldy, and have only time to say that I am

Very truly yours always,
W. M. Thackeray.

1299. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

3 MARCH 1857

Extract published, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxvi.

Queens Hotel Glasgow Tuesday 3

I thought I should ave ad a letter from the Demoiselles Dickory this morning. I had a capital Sunday at Edinburgh, found a wonderful large audience here considering, had a famous long sleep after wh^h I woke up strong & hearty, and in a few minutes am off through Edinburgh again to Kirkcaldy where the Provost writes me word that he will be in waiting to carry me off to his Mansion. Several days 3 or 4 have been knocked out of the lecturing I am to have Saturday & Sunday 7th & 8th in Edinburgh likewise Saturday & Sunday 14 & 15 — where those kind hospitable Blackwoods receive me. All the week beginning 16th I am to be at Aberdeen, and perhaps shall knock off the last week of Inverness

³² Everett Millais (1856–1897), later (1896) second Baronet.

& so forth. w^h may bring me home by the 24th or so — and give me a clear week before we begin with Beale. That will be a comfort, won't it?

The Blackwoods were most eager that you should come but theres no use in spending 25 £ on railways in this bad weather — and besides I dont think you would hit it well with her. The clever little kind woman is spoilt by her husband & brother in law and carried off her little legs with prosperity. We are the best of friends but. but &c &c &c. Quite right about the Douglas T fight & I dont think the fib was a harmful one. I had to sit & be called the Greatest Satirist of the Age before 1200 people last night and then went to M^{rs} Thomson & her nice little sisters and was adored during the evening — Thomson³³ adoring too who is one of the greatest philosophers now alive. What does all this mean dont I know I am a miserable sinner? — Yes but my dear women's affte Father always

W M T.

By Thursdays post address here. By Fridays & Saturdays to Blackwood at Edinburgh.

1300.

TO MRS. FANSHAWE
MARCH 1857³⁴

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear f.

Will you kindly take a walk some day to dear M^{rs} Cappur and pay her what is owing by my darlings? I thought I might have had a line from you. I have been working away at Glasgow & here, and have not been wery well thank you but needs must and I work my best. I send you my best Cupid and to all travellers & { . . . }³⁵

a penny stamp must be on this cheque.

³³ William Thomson. See above, No. 1262, note 156.

³⁴ This note appears to have been written from Edinburgh early in March.

³⁵ The final words of this note have not been preserved.

1301. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY
8 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Sunday. March 8.

My loaves It was very comfortable yesterday having nothing to do; and a good dinner and a good sleep also refreshed your dear Papa. The Scotch expedition is a failure as regards money, but pleasant enough otherwise — and this confounded Election ³⁶ too will deprive me of ever so much more. Never mind: We shall only be a little longer getting the 20.000. At Dundee I found and read Pendennis & thought it dreadfully stupid — Here I found and read 2 numbers of Newcomes and thought them — o for shame you conceited creature! — well — I cant help it. If I think its bad I say so with just as much candour — and the desire of pease came over my mind — pease, repoge, and honest labour not this quackery w^b I'm about now. Let us NOT go into parliament: let us retire and take that atelier and work and write honestly and humbly — The frontispiece of Pendennis is verily always going on my mind.

Here is yours of yesterday just come in. I don't think that there would be any good in going over just now to my dear old Mother — the coming away gives her more pain than the meeting gives her pleasure. You see what you do when you marry. — what slaves you become — well? and what immense happiness you enjoy I daresay with the right man. These folks' pleasure has no doubt been very greatly increased during 40 years by their living together — the bottom of the cup is rather bitter. So may other dregs be.

That last was getting to be a very stupid sentence — Cause why? There is somebody sitting in the room It is Professor Ferrier ³⁷ father of the pretty girl I wrote you about and whom I dont like quite so much on 2^d thoughts — but those good people at Glasgow

³⁶ See below, No. 1324 and Appendix XIX.

³⁷ James Frederick Ferrier (1808–1864), Professor of Moral Philosophy and Political Economy at St. Andrews University from 1845 till his death.

are quite as nice and kind. I had a quiet evening on Friday with them after a delightful ride through lovely country from Dundee, by Perth, Sterling, to Glasgow. And tomorrow it is Glasgow again, & Glasgow on Friday, and Dundee Wednesday — care of M^r Chalmers Bookseller — but I don't care about your writing unless there is something pertickular to say as I shall be 3 miles from Dundee at the house of Sir J. Ogilvy³⁸ wherever that may be.

And so with a benediction on my gals their Papa puts a cigar into his mouth and goes out to take a little walk in Church time. Mind and go to Chesham Place tomorrow night & say I got a letter from there on Saturday only — and give my best love to all there including poor J. O. B.

P. S. A Special Edict. You understand that I distinctly prohibit a visit to Hyndford House — The sending of that poor little innocent olive-branch is all mighty well — But the frequenting of the house can produce nothing but mischief.

[For fragments of a letter to Mrs. Elliot and Kate Perry 8 March, 1857, see Letter 52, Appendix XXVI.]

1302. TO LADY LOUISA DE ROTHSCHILD

17 MARCH 1857

Published in part by Lucy Cohen, *Lady de Rothschild*, p. 37. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

Aberdeen, March 17, 1857.

Dear Lady Rothschild — I hope you know that I am murdering the 4 Georges in Scotland and never heard of your beautiful party till the flowers were all dead, the dancers all in bed, the candles all out, the supper all eaten, the ices all melted, and the plate all locked up.

How long this business of George-killing is to last I don't know, but I have months yet of the House of Brunswick before me. Heaven bless them! I never thought my late gracious Sovereign

³⁸ Sir John Ogilvy (1803–1890), ninth Baronet, of Baldovan House, near Dundee, M. P. for Dundee from 1857 to 1874.

would put so many 100£ in the pockets of --- Yours always to command.

W. M. Thackeray.

What a fine wedding you have had in your family! ³⁹ What a parasol! What a pretty bride! — we met them all at Aix-la-Chapelle last autumn, and I think we all liked each other. I know I did.

1303.

TO ANNE THACKERAY

17 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Aberdeen March 17. 1857.

Douglas's Hotel.

As usual this is only going to be a scrap of a letter — And am I not writing it before eight o'clock — because I went to bed before 11, because I am going away to Dundee at 10.45. because I have ever so many business letters to write besides. Well, the voice of nature told me of the illness of my eldest daughter, though I felt confident she would recover and so she has — the same cry of nature told me she would want money and hadn't the paternal instinct already forwarded it?

Also I had it in my mind to tell you about the Brougham Horse, your various infantile letters pointing out to me clearly that you were awfully working that poor animal — He must have a rest at times. He musn't be taken out too many times a day — He is not intended to carry 4 every journey he takes poor horse! Spare him now & then 'Tis thoughtlessness I know not cruelty wh^h has urged ye.

This is the most awfully hospitable of all the places. Fellows were in waiting for me at the railway station walked me up and down the town whether I would or no never left < . . . > ⁴⁰

³⁹ Baron Alphonse de Rothschild and his cousin Leonora, daughter of Baron Lionel and Lady Charlotte de Rothschild, were married on March 4, 1857.

⁴⁰ Only the first page of this letter has been preserved.

1304.

TO LADY JAMES HAY ⁴¹

18 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Douglas's. Wednesday

Dear Lady James. How Can you suppose that I forget? I have this day engaged with a gentleman who keeps a carriage, M^r Todd, to take me to pay a visit to your Ladyship tomorrow at 3. On Saturday I am engaged to the Provost. On Monday I have to go to Banff, but on Sunday morning, quite early, disguised, & in the grey, may I not come over in a cab to Seaton House and stay that day & tell you & Lord James that I am always

Most faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1305.

TO ? 20 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Aberdeen. March 20. 1857.

My dear Sir.

I don't see how, with my views, I could be acceptable to any Scottish constituency. As long as the State pays any Church establishment at all (and I desire to see no separation) I think Maynooth ⁴² must be supported, & the educators of the Irish people educated. I do not care about disturbing the Forbes Mackenzie Act, of w^h some of the consequences have been good, though the principle I believe is wrong. I would certainly open the Crystal Palace & similar Institutions on Sundays, holding that such a freedom would tend to the happiness and harmless pleasure of the people, and hence to the *maorem Dei gloriam*.

⁴¹ The former Elizabeth Forbes (d. 1861), who had married Lord James Hay (1788-1862), second son of the seventh Marquess of Tweeddale, in 1813. Lord James was a General in the army.

⁴² The college for the Catholic clergy at Maynooth, whose support by the government was long a debated parliamentary issue.

The duration of Parliaments I think is of small importance the character of the representation of the very highest, and I would be for the extension of the franchise and heartily vote for the ballot. As any government whatever it shall be must pursue the China War to an issue, there is no need of talking on that point, nor does Lord Palmerstons ministry want the least pressing upon it. But, on questions concerning us at home I think he wants a great deal of pressing, and that reforms of law, representation administration, are most urgent & needful.

Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1306. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

24 MARCH 1857

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxvi-xxvii.

Inverness. Tuesday. March 24.

This is such a remote and ancient city that I suspect my letter will scarcely reach ye before Thursday noon — and after that let it be hoped there wont be many more letters written by your poor dear Papa to his absent family. It is a jolly little city. I was pained for the honest squires and country gentlemen with noble old fashioned notions about Church & King who thronged to the pretty little lecture room last night and had to listen to a sceptical Londoner sneering at loyalty courts and king-worship. I wonder if sneering is of the Deevil and laughter is not wicked? At a delightful industrial School at Aberdeen (where the children's faces and voices choked me and covered my spectacles with salt water) the founder of the School Sheriff Watson pulled my ballads out of his pocket and bade one of the little ones read out 'A hundred years ago and more a city built by burghers stout and fenced with ramparts round about'⁴³ &c w^h the little man did in an innocent voice and a strong Scotch accent of course — but the

⁴³ The opening lines of "The Legend of St. Sophia of Kioff" (*Works*, XIII, 80-97).

tone of levity in the ballad pained me coming from guileless lips — and I turned away ashamed and said to myself ‘Pray God, I may be able some day to write something good for children’ That will be better than glory & parliament. We must try & do it: mustn’t we? As soon as we have made a competence for the 2 young ones, we must see if we can do anything for the pleasure of young ones in general. That truth suggested itself to me in the Industrial Schools in Aberdeen.

I was very sulky and disgusted at the prospects of yesterday’s journey and a fierce storm of snow & sleet coming on as we were about 10 miles on the railroad from Aberdeen I had serious thoughts of turning back and not trying the coach-ride from Keith to Nairn — but I am very glad I did my duty. Honest folks came in many miles with cloaks furs gig-lamps and smoking post-horses to hear that dreary scepticism about George I. I should have caused many disappointments and sent trusting people angry home — and the coach journey though a little cold turned out very pleasant. To hear the horn sing as we rattled into the little towns and see the horses walk away towards their stables with quivering tails as their fresh successors took their places to see a bluff jolly guard and coachman once more was like being young again — you young folks never saw a bluff jolly guard & coachman; — and already Anny is deploring the departure of her youth. Her gentle sighs breathed on the artless paper, made me wonder whether TOMKINS had not made his appearance; — I shall be very glad to see him — Dont give him the Liverpool Port if you ask him to dinner — that is too good for young fellows — the Balfour wine is excellent, and the Kensington claret mind not the 40 or 60 — the young beggar does not know about wine yet — The coach journey was very pretty quaint & pleasant — a sort of pathetic country we drove through little low villages great broad rushing streams hills covered with firs as poor folks put coarse mittens and woollen wrappers round their children whilst the rich have sables silk waddings and warm douillettes (— the Scotch hills are the poor, you see, the firs the cheap worsteds, oaks elms & I take to be the adornments of wealthy lands and rich soils) —

an immense deal of ploughing going on & neat thrifty agriculture — all pleasant to see from the coach windows and of w^h one sees nothing on a railway-journey — All the same I am sulky still at the notion of having to go 9 hours tomorrow to Banff where I'm told there are not 4000 people. Never mind tomorrow is soon over & then Thursday at Aberdeen, & by Friday's post you may send me any letters care of Edmonston & Douglas Prince's St^e Edinburgh. I do believe I might be returned for Edinburgh — a strong party offered to put me up, and have pressed me, & written & rewritten: but it w^d be impossible to be at one with these Scotchmen on the Sabbath question and I wrote them my opinions so that there sh^d be no possible mistake on that subject. And now I'm at my paper's end — and to my dearest daughters send this news of their papa & friends — w^h they will please to Granny lend — My dear old Granny would like this place w^h seems to be entirely inhabited by Frasers. Several were at my lecture last night in actual kilts. W M T.

1307.

TO J. D. MILNE
26 MARCH 1857

Address: J. D. Milne Esq^r J^r Hitherto unpublished.

26 March. 1857 —

My dear Sir

I had not the least idea of the guarantees private convenings &c by w^h my last lectures in Scotland have been managed. I stipulated for a certain sum 25 guineas per lecture & half the profits over & above — Had I not made the arrangement, I could have had double the price in England during this month.

But unless, a man has his own employés Secretaries &c, some one must help him & make a profit out of him — it was thus the Glasgow Athenæum engaging me to lecture for 100 guineas as I thought in a hall w^h w^d have held 600 persons — took a hall for 3000 — pocketed 5 or 600 by the transaction — and thanked me at the Conclusion of the performances. I have heard of bargains

concluded & broken off at Inverness & Elgin about w^h I knew no sort of particulars, and am forced to leave these details (annoyed by some of them & regretting them very sincerely) to the hands of M^r Wood.

faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1308. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY
26 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Banff Thursday 26.

Your letter just come in. Granny had best have my room and if G. P comes Amy will take a little lodgement like a little darlent, where Miss Shakspeare⁴⁴ was or somewhere a bed for Martha in Grannys room — the next for GP in case he wants it — I'll be just as happy upstairs next to you. See about the bells in all the bed rooms. Have the bell hanger over from M^r Freakes⁴⁵ immediately — Such a long dreary journey yesterday all in pochaisses — poor old Brodie at the lecture to be sure. I gave her 10s. It's 7 o'clock in the bordig. Its raining. I am going in the coach and so God bless all at 36 all sick women all young children all old G Ps and your Pa.

Granny will be off to Aunt Marys at once but not you if you please young ladies.

[For a fragment of a letter to Kate Perry 24 March, 1857, see letter 53, Appendix XXVI.]

⁴⁴ Selina Shakespear.

⁴⁵ Charles Freak of 55 Onslow Square (*Watkins's London Directory*, 1855).

1309.

TO ROBERT CARRUTHERS ⁴⁶

30 MARCH 1857

Published in part, *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 118-119.36 Onslow Sq^e Brompton London S. W.
Edinburgh March 30.My dear M^r Carruthers

Think of the state of mind of the landlord of this hotel and 50 or 60 gentlemen who were to have given me a dinner on Saturday at finding that though I had arrived over night I was ill and couldn't dine on that day! Dinner put off till Tuesday — side dishes all spoiled (let us hope so for it will be the deuce if they are served again) — very kind of them to insist upon having the dinner in spite of the contretemps.

I think the Mackayan letter not bad a trifle grand and solemn as young folks write ⁴⁷— and know W^m Jerrold is a clever fellow — My man was quite of a different sort — a man of the world and society w^h these men are not — not so good as either of them very likely in some respects — but we will keep our talk about him mum to ourselves and dont mention him to S. Brooks ⁴⁸ — I have reason to fancy they dont like each other.

The 2 members for Edinburgh ⁴⁹ are coming to my dinner on

⁴⁶ Carruthers (1799-1878) was editor of *The Inverness Courier* from 1828 till his death.

⁴⁷ Mackay, who was perhaps a son of Charles Mackay of *The Morning Chronicle*, had applied for a vacant post on the *Courier*. Among the other applicants were William Blanchard Jerrold (1826-1884), a son of Douglas Jerrold, and Thackeray's candidate, George Augustus Sala.

⁴⁸ Charles William Shirley Brooks (1816-1874), a close friend of Thackeray's later life and one of his principal champions among the journalists of the day. As a young man Brooks had been articled to a solicitor, but he soon gave up the law for journalism. After a decade as parliamentary reporter for *The Morning Chronicle*, magazine writer, and playwright, Brooks in 1851 joined the staff of *Punch*. He remained with this magazine until his death, serving as editor after 1870.

⁴⁹ Charles Cowan and Adam Black (d. 1874), an Edinburgh publisher who was elected liberal M. P. for the city in 1856.

Tuesday & Sterling of Keir and I hope we shall have a jolly party—I write from Youngs New Royal Hotel. Princes St and send my London address where I shall be very glad indeed to see you when you visit our village. By the way tell me about that Claret—It is really very good and I want some. How much? a word to

Yours very truly
W M Thackeray.

So my friend the Emperor of China has come round to our side about the Yeh question. His Majesty has a kind heart: I thought he had when he sent me that chest of tea.

1310.

TO LADY JANE OGILVY ⁵⁰

30 MARCH 1857

My text is taken from a facsimile in *Biographical Introductions*, IX, lxi–lxiii.

Edinburgh. Monday 30 March

Dear Madam

Allow me to fling up my hat and cry hurray for the member for Dundee. He is so busy with the lawyers agents baillies & the like that he wont care for a shout more or less—but his wife? They you know are always pleased when good fortune happens to their husbands, and when other folks are pleased at it.

Since I saw you I have had an escape of being M P myself & for this place where two parties, I dont exactly know for what reason, wanted to put out one of the sitting members M^r Cowan: ⁵¹ but I manfully said I was for opening the Crystal Palace on Sunday (*ad majorem Dei gloriam* as I thought) and for the grant to Maynooth, & that I didn't think any Scottish constituency would take a stranger with those opinions. I had a delightful tourkin

⁵⁰ The former Lady Jane Elizabeth Howard (d. 1861), daughter of the sixteenth Earl of Suffolk and ninth Earl of Berkshire, who had married Sir John Ogilvy in 1836.

⁵¹ Charles Cowan (b. 1801), who had been liberal M. P. for Edinburgh since 1847.

in the North, was charmed with Inverness, and fell in love with old Aberdeen, an elderly decayed mouldering old beauty who lives quietly on the sea shore near her grand new granite sister of a city—I found old friends of mine, Lord & Lady James Hay there, with a house as hospitable as Baldovan—kindness everywhere—baillies & provosts at every station and dinners in every town. But the pace and incessant travelling and lecture-spouting and dining were too much for me. I broke down on Friday night on my arrival at Edinburgh leaving 50 gentlemen & the landlord of this hotel aghast who were to give me a dinner on Saturday. The dinner is put off till Tuesday I shall avoid the entrées (of w^h I shall have my suspicions) and eat the simple roast, and go back home on Wednesday, let us trust.

Wont you come to London for a little time in the season? I hope very much you may, and think with very great pleasure of the pleasant, restful days you gave me at Baldovan. With best regards to Sir John I am always most faithfully yours

W M Thackeray.

1311. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE

30 MARCH 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Youngs New Royal Hotel. Princess St
Edinburgh. March 30.

So Kinglake has bowled your Uncle out ⁵²—Think that I might almost have been in for Edinburgh but by way of conciliating them I said I was for opening the Crystal Palace on Sunday & was for Maynooth and even then a strong party pressed me & w^d have

⁵² The poll in the parliamentary election at Bridgewater in March, 1857, was as follows:

Lieut.-Col. C. J. K. Tynte	330
Alexander William Kinglake	301
B. Spencer Follett	203

(F. H. McCalmont, *The Parliamentary Poll Book*, London, 1880, p. 30).

had me try. But this is not the pint I hope you & Madam will kindly dine on Sunday with us at 6.30 and ask Morgan John will you. His cheerful prattle emuses my good old mother. I have just got up after a crack of spasms w^h befel on the first & last day of this campaign — It has been glorious but not hoverendebuv remewnerative

I shant pocket above 700 out of the 7 weeks very different to the terms propoged by the noble Beale and w^h the Election has caused us to postpone very likely to throw over — Well never mind — Its only a little longer getting rich. As soon as I do I shall lapse into hidjous indolence — but meanwhile am

With the highest consideration

Sir

&cccc

[For a fragment of a letter to Mrs. Elliot and Kate Perry, March, 1857, see Letter 54, Appendix XXVI.]

1312.

TO LADY MURRAY

2 APRIL 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Young's New Royal Hotel. Thursday

April 2. 1857 —

Dear Lady Murray — I must go to London tomorrow where my mother has been waiting to spend a week with me, 5 days of w^h will have been consumed when at last we meet tomorrow night. Otherwise I should have waited for your party, and have had very great pleasure in again shaking hands with Lord Murray and you.

Believe me

Most faithfully yours

W M Thackeray.

1313. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

2 APRIL 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Edinburgh. April 2.

My dearest women. I hope tomorrow m^g at 9.50 to be in the train going South, and tomorrow ev^g at 9.30 to be at the Great Northern Station at King's Cross, where if it doesn't rain my gals may come for me in the Brougham — or if it's fine they may want a drive during the day — a cab for Charles & the luggage must be had anyway, & I shall only rush into their arms at 10.15 instead of 9.30.

Oof! I wish this dinner ⁵³ & the 2 speeches were over w^h I have to make — they have been throttling me like nightmares all the week, & though I have done 'em I know I shant remember 'em. Never mind It will all be over tomorrow, & then for all Saturday & all Sunday I shall be quiet with my dearest women & mother

W M T.

⁵³ The dinner given to Thackeray at the Royal Hotel in Edinburgh on April 2 is described in *The Times* of April 4, his two speeches being reported verbatim. Lord Neaves was in the chair, and the other speakers included Stirling of Keir, Professor Blackie, Robert Chambers, James Russell, and Charles Cowan. "Wasn't that beautiful of Lord Neaves," Dr. Brown writes to Mary Crum on April 8, "*Satire* and *Sympathy* rising in his deepest and highest nature, and rising together, though they took each their several ways. I saw [Thackeray] was so surprised and grateful at being so spoken of and understood. If you had seen his pathetic, dumb face, like a great child going to cry, when he stood up to return thanks for his Two Muses, his Daughters, you would have had a good honest cry, you and Jessie, as I very nearly had; only men's tears are seldom honest, and if honest, are Dearly bought. He thought he had made an immense fool of himself in his speech till he saw it next morning." (*Dr. Brown*, p. 111)

1314.

TO THORNTON HUNT

7 APRIL 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Onslow Sq^f Brompton.
April 7.

Dear Hunt.

M^r Bray wrote offering his hospitalities to me; but I am unwell, and when in that condition like to be at an inn best — so I thankfully declined M^r Bray's offer. I am full of business at the present writing, and have only leisure to say that I think that author is very wrong whose opinion you quote that everybody abuses everybody behind the latter's back.

Always yrs
W M Thackeray.

1315.

TO LADY JAMES HAY

7 APRIL 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^f April 7.

My dear Lady James. I didnt send you a Scotsman because I came away quite early on Friday m^s from Edinburgh, and on Saturday your humble servants speeches were in the Times ⁵⁴ — They were very ill delivered for the Speaker is a nervous & sometimes even modest youth. He is going to begin a new book very soon he hopes — very likely he will come into the North & work on it, and then wont he be glad to see Seaton House once again & the kind Lord & Lady there? He is yours (squeezed up at the bottom of the page) faithfully ever W. M. T.

⁵⁴ See above, No. 1313.

1316. TO GEORGE FREDERICK PARDON⁵⁵
14 APRIL 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq. April 4

Dear Sir

I have this moment returned home from a 2 months absence in the North, and find your little volume⁵⁶ and 2^d note. The first was forwarded to me at Glasgow: but I thought I would look at the book ere I wrote to thank the giver.

Naturally, I have not had time to do that as yet: but answer your second note without delay and with thanks for the little present you have made me.

Your very faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

There is no number to your date, but I hope my letter will find you in Beaumont Sq:

1317. JAMES REYNOLDS YOUNG
2 MAY 1857

My text is taken from an Anderson Galleries catalogue, May 15-17, 1916, lot 143.

Saturday Eve.

My dear Young.

I only got your note yesterday just as I was starting for Clifton where I had to lecture.⁵⁷ Endless Visitors prevented me from

⁵⁵ Pardon (1824-1884) wrote more than twenty volumes on sports and pastimes under the pseudonym "Captain Crawley".

⁵⁶ *Billiards*, "by Captain Crawley," the preface of which is dated Christmas, 1856.

⁵⁷ Thackeray had now begun the fifty lectures for which his contract with Beale provided. His itinerary included Exeter, Plymouth, Clifton, Birmingham, Oxford, Leamington, and Norwich. Hodder, who accompanied him as manager and secretary, describes the trip in *Memories of my Time* (pp. 272-

writing answers to my heaps of Correspondents, and now lo Monday must come before I can speak to you. I must go back to town on Saturday after lecturing at Leamington — have to dine with a Cousin of mine⁵⁸ at Oxford on Friday who is just made fellow of Lincoln so its in vain for me to try and hope to pay you my visit now. I begin at Norwich again on Monday and for a fortnight or 3 weeks more there is no rest for me. It is a bore, but I wish all men could be as well paid for their sermons as yours always my dear Young.

W. M. Thackeray.

Poor old Stoddart!

274, 282-292, and 301-305). Thackeray was by no means as successful as he had been earlier in the year. "After the first five lectures had been delivered," writes Beale (*The Light of Other Days*, p. 262), "I called in Onslow Square with a cheque for £250.

"What is this, W. B.?" said Thackeray, reading the cheque. 'Pounds? Our agreement says guineas, and guineas it must be.'

"You are well aware the lectures so far have involved a very heavy loss," I replied by way of apology.

"That's not my affair," he rejoined. 'I am not to know what occult means you have to protect yourself from loss. Guineas, W. B.! Guineas it must be, and nothing less! I must have the shillings.'

⁵⁸ Francis St. John Thackeray, who was a Fellow of Lincoln College from 1857 to 1861. While in Oxford Thackeray met the Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898), later famous as Lewis Carroll, mathematical lecturer in the University from 1855 to 1881. "I breakfasted this morning with Fowler of Lincoln," Dodgson noted in his journal on May 9, "to meet Thackeray (the author), who delivered his lecture on George III. in Oxford last night. I was much pleased with what I saw of him; his manner is simple and unaffected; he shows no anxiety to shine in conversation, though full of fun and anecdote when drawn out. He seemed delighted with the reception he had met with last night: the undergraduates seem to have behaved with most unusual moderation." (Stuart Dodgson Collingwood, *Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll*, New York, 1899, pp. 72-73) Among those present at the large breakfast party given by Thomas Fowler (1832-1904), Tutor at Lincoln College from 1855 to 1881 and President of Corpus Christi College from the latter year until his death, in the Lincoln common room were Mark Pattison and John Morley (Irvine, *Nineteenth Century*, XXXIV, 592).

1318. TO WILLIAM BRADFORD REED

14 MAY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Norwich. May 14. 1857.

My dear Reed.

Thank you for that kind little note announcing Your Excellency's speedy departure for China ⁵⁹—for without it, I should not have answered the last letter I had from you — our papers all announcing your speedy arrival here to commune with Lord Clarendon and Walewski upon the measures to be pursued at Canton. And I made sure that we would have you for the Literary Fund dinner next week, and that I should get a chance of making a neat speech in your honor & of asking you to dinner at home and having a party of big wigs to meet you — &c &c. Sed Deis aliter visum ⁶⁰— I don't at all like the Chinese appointment unless it will lead to an English one afterwards — where I should like of all things to see a scholar and a gentleman out of your country, and a man who could hold his own with our folks in literary talk.

This is written at a very uncomfortable table in an Old Hotel at Norwich ⁶¹— a city w^h would do your heart good to see, with an ancient market place peaked with a hundred gables and surmounted by a huge castle built by the Normans and as grim and as clean it has just been scraped for the first time, as when William Conquerors knights kept ward there. I had a magnificent old Hall to lecture in with honest stupid county families driving in in their carriages — it was a Church once and I approached it through the Cloisters of an old Convent. That lecturing business is very nearly come to an end. I have made as much more by it as I made in America, And am straightway going to a book w^h in consequence of the popularity of these lectures is paid to me twice as much as

⁵⁹ Reed was appointed Ambassador to China shortly after President Buchanan took office in March, 1857.

⁶⁰ *Aeneid*, II, 428.

⁶¹ See Appendix XVIII.

any former production. That is all my personal news — you see by it that I am flourishing pretty well — in disgrace with the Whigs who have left me off; but much better known to the country and liked by it let us trust. It was good to hear the boys at Oxford cheering the other night. The last time I was there there were not 100 of them. this time there were 500 — so it is that vires acquire riches. It will be good for your boys to see the world, to smell powder mayhap; but what an anxious time for you and M^{rs} Reed! What a wrench at the heart that parting with the little ones — what a meal that last breakfast where you'll all try and look cheerful Amen! Days and griefs pass; and we struggle on in our career, and amass or dissipate or climb upwards to reputation or slip down and flounder, and undergo our Fate. I suppose it will please you (it would me, I'm pretty sure) to hear the frigates salute you as you go into the Canton river — Every man would like to make a mark as a Citizen in his country — and you having that chance may it be a prosperous one to you, may you go back to happy wife and children, my dear Reed. And may we see you in London in a coach emblazoned with the eagle and the stripes and stars. I suppose the pretty daughter will have a husband to console her for Papa's absence. None such has yet appeared about my premises and I hope not to see one for some time to come. How I wish I had you here that I might keep out of blunders in THE VIRGINIANS! w^h is to be D. V. the name of the New Story. I daresay you guess who they are & that Hester Reed's Diary⁶² will be very serviceable to me. Salve et Vale my dear Reed says

Yours very sincerely always
W M Thackeray.

And a many kind messages to M^{rs} Reed though I havent the heart to say them now to her

⁶² See above, No. 1079.

1319. TO GEORGE FREDERICK PARDON
21 MAY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

May 21. Onslow Sq^f

Dear Sir

I have been travelling from home, & your note has again been delayed in reaching me. I was not hurt that you should have put Captain Crawleys name to your little book on billiards — and if you remember wrote to you instantly on my arrival from a previous journey to acknowledge your 2 notes & the volume w^h you sent me.⁶³ Since then I have been painting my study & the book has disappeared so that I have not had an opportunity of judging of the quality of the text of the book you were so kind as to inscribe to

Your very faithful Servant
W M Thackeray.

1320. TO BAYARD TAYLOR
29 MAY 1857

Extract published by Mrs. Hansen-Taylor and Scudder, *Bayard Taylor*, I, 333. My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 339-340.

36 Onslow Square, 29 May

My dear Bayard, — I have written a letter to Tennyson⁶⁴ containing comments upon your character, which I could n't safely trust to your own hand — and so, you'll go to Freshwater in the Isle of Wight and he'll be prepared to receive you. The girls are sorry not to see the sisters who must have had a famous time and we here shall be delighted to shake hands with you — A month sooner we would not have let you camp out elsewhere, but I have just pulled part of my house down and have only one bed-chamber

⁶³ See above, No. 1316.

⁶⁴ I have not traced this letter.

where there were to be two. But live as close as you can to us and eat, drink, smoke, come in and out as you please, and you'll be sure to please

W. M. T.

1321. TO WILLIAM ALEXANDER MACKINNON⁶⁵

31 MAY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Private

May 31.

My dear Mr Mackinnon

I am told that the second seat for Lymington may be had by the person who is secure of your good will. Will you give it to

Yours very faithfully

W M Thackeray.

May I come to talk to you on the subject?

1322.

TO BAYARD TAYLOR

JUNE 1857

Facsimile published in *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 340. *Endorsed*: June, 1857, B. T.

My dear B. T. I was so busy yesterday that I couldn't keep my agreeable appointment with Thompson: & am glad I didn't fetch you to Greenwich Here's a note w^h concerns you,⁶⁶ & I am ever yours

⁶⁵ Mackinnon (1789–1870), author of a *History of Civilization* (1846), had represented Lymington in parliament from 1831 to 1833 and from 1835 to 1852. He was currently liberal M. P. for Rye. His son, William Alexander Mackinnon Jr. (b. 1813), was elected to the second seat for Lymington later in 1857.

⁶⁶ The note, which is to Thackeray from Tennyson at Farringford, reads: "Your American friend & poet-traveller has never arrived. he has I suppose

1323.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

22 JUNE 1857

My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, pp. 331-332.

Monday, 22 June.

My Dear Doctor — I am very sorry to hear the bad news about Madam, whom I don't like to fancy in illness and pain. Nature gives them a much greater share of it than to us who grumble and groan so much more; and the hypocrites bear it so well! I know one, two, three at this minute, all suffering, all cheerful, when the husband or company arrives, all aches are trifles compared to theirs, and I'm determined to bear my share fortitudinously. . . . Tom Taylor wrote the verses in *Punch*; when I strike the lyre I think it's to a more original tune than that; it's not the best music, but it's my own. Jerrold never was Editor of *Punch*. I wrote to Douglas on that important matter on Saturday. I'm getting up a new sermon in his behalf,⁶⁷ and have done little more this month past but racket and go to my Doctor, and to parties with my daughters, and ponder over the new book. The lines are out of the introduction to Faust, about the prettiest of Goethe's, and utter sweetly and naturally a selfish, honest feeling of grief.⁶⁸

changed his mind. I am sure I should have been very glad to see him for my 'castle' was never yet 'barricaded & entrenched' against good fellows. I write now this line to say that after the 30th I shall not be here.

"My best remembrances to your daughters whom I have twice seen once as little girls & again a year or so back." Taylor visited Tennyson later in June.

⁶⁷ Douglas Jerrold had died on June 8, 1857. Thackeray was a pall-bearer at his funeral on June 15, and later in the year he read his old lecture on "Charity and Humour" (otherwise called "Weekday Preachers") for the benefit of Jerrold's family.

⁶⁸ In the preface (dated April 10, 1857) to volume IV of his *Miscellanies*, Thackeray writes of *A Shabby Genteel Story*: "The tale was interrupted at a sad period of the writer's own life. The colours are long since dry; the artist's hand is changed. It is best to leave the sketch, as it was when first designed seventeen years ago. The memory of the past is renewed as he looks at it —

die Bilder froher Tage

Und manche liebe Schatten steigen auf."

(*Works*, XI, vii)

I don't think I've any news. I know that I've ever and ever so many letters to write, and that I'm yours always and your wife's and your young ones', my dear Brown.

1324. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

11 JULY 1857

My text is taken from *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxxi.

Oxford, July 11, 1857.

My dearest little women, as far as I can see,
The independent Woters is all along with me,⁶⁹
But nevertheless I own it, with not a little funk,
The more respectable classes they go with Wiscount Monck;
But a fight without a tussle it is not worth a pin,
And so St. George for England, and may the best man win.

1325. TO LADY MOLESWORTH
JULY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Lady Molesworth,
In such a moment all I ask
Is, thou'lt remember me.⁷⁰

What can I say better than the beautiful words of the poet and leave the rest to hope and your good nature?

Haste, Haste to the poll! Bring up your independent electors!
and rally round Titmarsh! Such is the earnest and patriotic appeal
of

Your ladyship's most faithful humble Serv^t
W M Thackeray

⁶⁹ See Appendix XIX.

⁷⁰ From Thaddeus's aria in the first scene of the third act of *The Bohemian Girl* (1844) by Michael Balfe:

When hollow hearts shall wear a mask,
'Twill break your own to see —
In such a moment, I but ask
That you'll remember me.

1326. TO WILLIAM HEPWORTH DIXON⁷²
16 JULY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Mitre. July 16.

My dear M^r Dixon

I am not ready with the new lecture Im sorry to say — It is more than 1/2 done, but this election has stopped me and occupies every hour of my time till Tuesday when my fate will be decided. I had thought Saturday w^d be the day, when I sh^d have had plenty of time to finish Week Day Preachers.

Always yours
W M Thackeray.

Our side says we are safe to win — so do the others.
Speirs is on the other side I fear, or at best will not vote.

1327. TO LADY HOLLAND
23 JULY 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

July 23. 36 Onslow Sq^r

Dear Lady Holland

I have only just returned beaten from Oxford, and found your kind invitation. I wish I had been here to accept it, and hope to pay my best respects to you & Lord Holland on a very early day.

very faithfully yours always
W M Thackeray.

⁷² Dixon (1821–1879), editor of *The Athenæum* from 1853 to 1869, was a persistent enemy of Thackeray after the Garrick Club Affair. See Appendix XXV.

1328.

TO THOMAS BUCHANAN READ ⁷²

3 AUGUST 1857

Address: T. Buchanan Read Esq. | at Thornton's Esq^e | Whalley Range | Manchester. *Postmark:* AU 4 57. Published in *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 341.

36 Onslow Sq^t August 3.

My dear Read

Thank you for your volume ⁷³ — I did not know Where to send you to acknowledge — wont say that I have had time to read it yet — have been away out of town on a business wh^h occupied every hour of my time, electioneering — have been ill since my return and So busy that the muse has had to sit in the antechamber, all this while. Tomorrow we go to Brighton and I shall see your Icebergs from the sea-shore there. Thank M^r Thornton ⁷⁴ for his offer of hospitality: but I am promised if I go to Manchester to my friend Drane, and when I go it will be in force with my daughters in company. I shall be delighted to have a bit of the Ancestral printing: and hope that we may have some more meetings in our country or in your's

Always yours

W M Thackeray.

⁷² Read (1822–1872) was a minor American poet and painter who had lived for years in England. Thackeray appears to have met him through Bayard Taylor.

⁷³ *The Famous History of the Life of the Renowned Prince Palmerin of England*, a copy of which inscribed to him by Read was in Thackeray's library when he died (*Howe Proofs*, p. 512). Read sent Thackeray this Spanish romance of doubtful authorship, which shares with *Amadis of Gaul* the distinction of being one of the two tales of chivalry which the curate and the barber in *Don Quixote* (Book I, chap. VI) spare from the flames, because the title page reads: "London, printed for William Thackeray, in Duck-Lane and Thomas Passinger on London-Bridge. MDCLXXXV."

⁷⁴ William Thornton, of Challey Range, Manchester, with whom Read was living.

1329.

TO COLONEL SYKES ⁷⁵

16 AUGUST 1857

Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: | 57.

Brighton. 126 Marine Parade.

August 16.

My dear Sir

I trouble you once more in behalf of my friend M^r Crowe the Artist, thank you for entertaining his application so kindly — I am sure if you employ him he will do justice to your Commission, and send you a note from him w^h has been lying awaiting me here.

Thanking you most sincerely for your willingness to serve my friend believe me dear Colonel Sykes

Your obliged faithful Serv^t

W M Thackeray.

1330.

TO MRS. SYNGE

SEPTEMBER ? 1857

Address: M^{rs} Syngé. Hitherto unpublished.My dear M^{rs} Syngé

At last it is arranged that we go to Hombourg and herewith Charles Pearman receives orders to join his employer.

My old Stepfather is very shaky and I think I must spend a great part of the winter at Paris, so that the good Grey the Cook must seek for a place elsewhere. I have written her a line to say that I am sure you will be kind enough to answer for me that I have found her 'honest willing intelligent economical & a good cook' And so Eliza will be at your Ladyships service; and the house for some months to come at least. I must come to London to get the first number of my book out;⁷⁶ and then further matters

⁷⁵ Colonel William Henry Sykes (1790–1872), Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company in 1856 and liberal M. P. for Aberdeen from 1857 to 1872.

⁷⁶ Chapters 1 to 4 of *The Virginians*, published for November, 1857.

may be arranged. If a young couple who are talking of fitting & furnishing a house don't find themselves too far off at Kensington — why — but we will talk of this when I come.

Meanwhile I send my very best regards to M^{rs} Synge, and am
M^r Synges

Very sincerely
W M Thackeray.

1331.

TO WILLIAM MACREADY

13 SEPTEMBER 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq.
Sep. 13.

My dear Macready

I am only just home from Hombourg, have no lectures to give but the one I owe you and will pay it on any day that shall be fixed by you & your Institution ⁷⁷ — There —

I dont write any more. O Lord — if you could see the heap of letters to answer you w^d pity

Yours ever
W M Thackeray.

Please Announce either Week Day Preachers ⁷⁸ or George III.

1332.

TO JOSEPH PARKES

25 SEPTEMBER 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Square. Brompton
Friday ev^g Sep^r 25.

To remind

M^r Thackeray requests the pleasure of M^r Joseph Parkes's company at dinner on Wednesday the 7 October at 6. o'clock *precisely*

⁷⁷ Thackeray did not lecture at Sherborne until March, 1858.

⁷⁸ That is, "Charity and Humour".

1333.

TO LADY OLLIFFE
26 OCTOBER 1857?

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq: S. W.
October 26.

My dear Lady O Those stupid reporters at the Reform Club have only given me your note of the 19th just now. I am too busy and alas! too unwell to be able to leave town just now else you know how glad I should be to see you. M^r W Russell the Times Correspondent is talking so cheerfully at my back that I cant make grammatical sentences, but I can briefly and with real sincerity aver that I am yours

Most respectfully
J. B. O'Meagher.

1334.

TO A. I. HOPKINS
31 OCTOBER 1857

Address: A. I. Hopkins Esq^e | 38 Great Pulteney St | Golden Square. Hitherto unpublished.

Athenæum. October 31. 1857

Sir

I found your note on my return to town yesterday. The paper ⁷⁹about w^h you enquire has just been republished in (I am not certain w^h volume of) my miscellanies — I am very glad it pleased you & your children. 'Sedan Court' of w^h I forget the real name, is close by Great Pulteney St and I assure you the scene was accurately described.

Your very faithful Servt
W M Thackeray

⁷⁹ "The Curate's Walk".

1335.

TO THE BAXTERS

31 OCTOBER—27 NOVEMBER 1857

Address: M^{rs} Baxter | Second Avenue | New York. | U. S. A. | via Liverpool.
Postmark: LONDON NO 27 57. Published in part, *American Family*, pp. 155—160.

36 Onslow Square.

November 1.

but begun yesterday at the
 Athenæum where I found
 your letter.

These are pretty reproaches indeed Ladies! — I should like to know who wrote last to both of you? I flatter myself its I who am the injured party — though that it may be months ago since I wrote I confess. And I have been thinking of you all the time of this panic⁸⁰ and actually was too frightened to write. Last Monday I came home to the girls and announced that the carriage and one must be sold (we keep a carriage and one a very pretty open carriage and a brougham if you please.) that Jeames must certainly go, if not chawls too (Mr. Chawls is such a great man now that he cant do without a young man in livery to help him) that all the American savings were gone to smash, including the 500£ from Harper Brothers for the Virginians — It is astonishing how well we took our ruin. Next day however things began to brighten again: and it appears we are not done for, as yet at least. What shall I tell I have just come back from Oxford after that little electioneering freak. I should have won but for the Sabbath question, and on that point I wont truckle or change to get any possible promotion or glory — and am quite as well out of Parliament as in. Tell Sally my fits of blue devils continue — that I have fallen in love with nobody else and intend to dont — that nobody is come after my homely girl who is the delight of her

⁸⁰ The transatlantic mails brought news early in October of the failure of many American banks. In the ensuing panic several English firms had to close their doors, the largest being the Western Bank of Scotland, which had liabilities of £8,911,000. (*Annual Register*, 1857)

father when he sees her. I have had the parents with me for the last 3 months: or with the girls rather my visits being only occasional. I dont think the Virginians is good yet though it has taken me an immense deal of trouble but I know it will be good at the end. I tremble for the poor publishers who give me 300£ a number — I dont think they can afford it and shall have the melancholy duty of disgorging. Sure I think this is all my news; but I think about America a many & many times and in so friendly a manner that I am perfectly certain I shall be walking Broadway again ere long. Do write and tell me that you are not severely hurt in the panic. I took a share in the Transatlantic Telegraph (deeming it a sort of duty) but the Oxford Election cost me so much that I was obliged to sell the Transatlantic-share, so that that money was so much saved — Only 2 people of all those I canvassed had ever heard of my name. It wouldn't be so in America, would it? It was a good lesson to my vanity.

My summer trip was confined to a house at Brighton and a little excursion to Hombourg & Paris. The girls rode hack horses and bathed and were happy. My mother who has been ailing for more than a year has improved very much during her 3 months visit to us. I am rather better in health I think but becoming more silent & selfish every day. Women know how to dissemble when they are bored, and appear cheerful though they are yawning in spirit. I wish I could be a little more of a hypocrite sometimes. Your daughter S. H. writes glumly that she is a wreck: a wreck with a pooty ittle boy floating on it is always an interesting object — Let us carry the young ones safe to shore. Ha! There is a large tear w^h my pen has shed. It is one of a box of pens w^h I bought in Washington D. C. What about the boys? Is Wyllie working hard and as good as ever Has George begun to grow a moustache? Is that tiresome fever and ague out of the house? I have not had a touch since the 4 of July when I was sitting quite happy and unprepared, after a good dinner, listening to Lord Brougham & Lord Lyndhurst telling wicked old stories, and lo! I felt the enemy creeping down my back. Mysterious chill & fever! — Prattling w^h nonsense my paper has come to an end. Was it a

grand marriage of Miss Libbie? Mind, I consider it is my privilege to send each of those young ladies a tea-pot. The girls and I will go into town today to look for one: & when Madame Jandon uses it she will please remember her & your

Here it is the 28 November ⁸¹ and the letter begun on the 1st still lying in my box. Do you know why it was not sent? First we went out to look for a T. pot, then we couldnt find a pretty little one such as befits a young bride who wishes to console herself with Bohea in the absence of her hearts darling. Then when in about a week I had got scent of a pretty little old tea pot it is a fact I had NO MONEY — that is to spare — That is times are so bad and every man so hard pressed that 1, 2, 3, 4 up to 14 people have been to me for gold and silver in the course of the month, and I couldnt refuse them in their distress and didn't dare to buy even a two penny halfpenny present whilst all these unfortunates were calling out for help. As I came in just now Charles says M^r C's servant just called with a note w^h he was to leave in case you were at home' Do you suppose I dont know what that means? M^r C. will call himself tomorrow morning before 11 (the wretch!) and say My dear fellow the times are so bad that if you can lend me &c and how on airth with all this can I go and get that teapot? Never mind. Wait a while, Libbie, It must and SHALL be bought, meanwhile take the benediction of your affectionate Uncle — w^h is I think my relationship to you. What has happened since the 1st? Nothing particular. My good old parents are gone away after a good long visit — The old Major grows to be more and more like Colonel Newcome every day. My mothers health has greatly improved She enjoyed her visit here. We are very smart. You should see our new Brougham if you please, &c &c &c. God bless you all — a very merry Xmas to you, to brides to bridegrooms to spinsters piccaninnies Grandmothers Grandfathers grand and common uncles, and to S S H from yours ever

⁸¹ A mistake for November 27, as the postmark shows.

1336. TO BRADBURY AND EVANS
3 DECEMBER 1857

Hitherto unpublished.

Brighton. Dec^r 3 . 1857.

Dear Sirs

I hear that Mess^{rs} Harper of New York have forwarded funds to meet their engagements in this country, and shall be glad to have payment for my 2 numbers of the Virginians. Will you or M^r Joyce call on Mess^{rs} Low and receive the monthly money on behalf of

Yours very faithfully
W M Thackeray.

Mess^{rs} Bradbury & Evans.

1337. FROM CHARLES DICKENS
4 DECEMBER 1857

Published by Dr. Rosenbach, *Widener Catalogue*, II, 51.

Tavistock House

Friday December Fourth. 1857.

My Dear Thackeray

Your second note stopped me from coming to you, to talk over the subject of your first ⁸²—which reached me within an hour before the receipt of a similar proposal from Forster.

In the intervale which has followed through your absence from town, I have communicated with Marguerite Power, and have asked her plainly, whether such a subscription would be acceptable and accepted? She replies, most gratefully and without hesitation, "Yes". It seems to me that the best thing we can do, is, to take out 20 names of old visitors at Gore House and make a subscription of £10 each. This will give us a purse of £200 to present to her.

⁸² I have not traced these letters.

I will come to you at Brompton, or meet you anywhere, any day you can name, between 10 and 5. Let us do it as soon as we can, and get it done.

Ever Faithfully
Charles Dickens.

W. M. Thackeray. Esquire

1838.

TO CHARLES DICKENS
7 DECEMBER 1857

Published by Dr. Rosenbach, *Widener Catalogue*, II, 51.

36 O. □. Dec^r 7.

My dear Dickens

I cant ask, but you may, a gentleman by the name of Alb-rt Sm-th, (who has made a good deal of money by ascending a place called M-nt Bl-nc) for 10£ towards that purse, and I think he will give it.

A man assaulted him in a public club the other day for his stinginess to an old friend, and the man as it appears was egregiously wrong, and Sm-th's conduct has been quite right and generous towards his unfortunate friend R-b-ns.⁸³

Of course I am good for 10£. for the Subscription

Yours ever
W M T.

⁸³ Serjeant Ballantine (*Some Experiences of a Barrister's Life*, I, 136) explains that "Albert Smith . . . and a poor fellow now dead, Joe Robbins, had been associates and friends; the latter, who originally had been in a lucrative business, quitted it for the stage and got into a very sad plight. I know that Albert Smith had been most considerate and kind to him, but had on one occasion refused to join in some subscription that had been set on foot in his behalf. Thackeray circulated throughout the club a caricature, in which the likenesses were unmistakable. Robbins was represented wounded by thieves and being assisted by some good Samaritan, also portrayed, whilst Albert Smith, the Pharisee of the parable, was passing scornfully upon the other side."

In *The Roundabout Papers* Thackeray tells of the apology that he made to Arthur Smith (1825-1861) for his injustice to Albert. "Years ago," he

1339.

TO S. LOW AND SONS
11 DECEMBER 1857Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxxvii.36 Onslow Sq^{re} London
December 11. 1857

Dear Sirs

I am sorry to hear from you that the N Y. Tribune is reprinting *The Virginians*, and no doubt hurting the Mess^{rs} Harpers' Issue of the story, who pay me 100\$ per month for early impressions. But I do not see what good any remonstrances of mine can effect. If American houses choose to reprint our books we can't prevent them, and the Tribune will doubtless take it's own course, in spite of any objections of mine or Mess^{rs} Harper. Could English writers have remonstrated with any effect we should have done so years ago: but I am sure an outcry at present would neither be useful nor dignified; and can only express my regret that I dont see how, in the present instance, I can be of any service to a House w^h shows itself inclined to act in a kind and friendly manner to English literary men.

Faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.Mess^{rs} S. Low & Son.

writes (*Works*, XII, 373-374), "I had a quarrel with a certain well-known person (I believed a statement regarding him which his friends imparted to me, and which turned out to be quite incorrect). To his dying day that quarrel was never quite made up. I said to his brother, 'Why is your brother's soul still dark against me? It is I who ought to be angry and unforgiving: for I was in the wrong.'"

1340. FROM THACKERAY, DICKENS, AND FORSTER
TO THE FRIENDS OF LADY BLESSINGTON
24 DECEMBER 1857

Published by Dr. Rosenbach, *Widener Catalogue*, II, 50.

Confidential

24th December, 1857

Dear Sir

We have ascertained from Miss Power that a present of £200, would be of very great service to her at this time, and would be gratefully accepted by her, if it were the result of a private subscription among old and confidential visitors at Gore House. We have made a private list of twenty old friends of Lady Blessington and Count D'Orsay, who may make up the required sum among themselves by a contribution of Ten Pounds each.

Such private list contains your name. If you should desire to contribute your Ten Pounds, any one of us will be happy to receive your donation, and the names of the subscribers shall be forwarded to you on the close of the subscription

Faithfully yours

W M Thackeray. 36 Onslow Sq^{re} Brompton.
Charles Dickens Tavistock House
John Forster 46 Montagu Square

1341. TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
25 DECEMBER 1857

Extracts published, *Biographical Introductions*, IX, lvii.

I must send my dear old Mother & G P a line of Xmas greeting, and tell them how well & happy the young ones are and poor little Amy whom I left a couple of hours ago at Walton, in the midst of such lavish splendours and magnificence as I have never seen the like of in the finest houses here — all w^h splendors, Christmas trees loaded with presents fountains of Champagne &

Hock drives in coaches and four & I dont know what more are lavished upon 8 or nine young girls and 2 or 3 gentlemen — One of them was busy all (. . . spee)ch ⁸⁴ w^h he is to let off in an hour or two at the City of London Tavern in behalf of the Commercial Travellers school. Anny to whom I dictated the speech remembers all the points, and the very words deuce a one of w^h can I recal verbally. I should not be sorry to fail, for then people wont ask me again and I shall be rid of a very severe tax w^h is laid on men in prominent positions — We are to have more holiday making at the Pollocks, and I cant resist for I can't bear that the girls should lose any pleasure, and meanwhile how is No IV to be got out? Well, other folks have their drawbacks and their encumbrances — let us bear our's without too much grumbling. Good accounts from poor Isabella. Her fever is over. Amy brought back the very best report of her and of the care taken of her! I dont know what the French pills are, but they certainly are the most effectual boluses I ever swallowed. I think they have kept off an attack of spasms. They must contain some dreadful strong ingredient but they give no pain and perform to a wonder. I should be glad to hear that they contained nothing wicked. Does M^{rs} Colmache know anything about their character and does a respectable D^r recommend them? Your heart would have melted over a little boy of 2 ⁸⁵ last night trolling round the Xmas tree and cry[ing] o Crissamy Tee Crissamy Tree! He looked like a little cherub just peeping into Heaven: & he didn't like even to take away his own share of toys from the general splendor. O dear. I should like very much to stop at home alone for 3 days and get on with that No IV! It was kind of the Sturgiss to ask Amy and as much is made of her as of any one. and very well she looks too and so does Miss Anny who has got thinner & is a comfort to look at especially to her father & to your son my dear old Mother. God bless both of you he says and now let us rehearse that speech.

⁸⁴ About five words have here been torn from the letter.

⁸⁵ Howard Sturgis (Mrs. Warre-Cornish, *Some Family Letters*, p. 24).

1342.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

25 DECEMBER 1857-2 JANUARY 1858

My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, pp. 326-327.

My Dear Doctor — Xmas day must not pass away without a shake of the hand between Rutland Street and Onslow Square. What a many letters the Square owes you, how kind you are to it, sending *Culverwells*, *Scotsmen*, *Medical Reforms*, notices laudatory of *Virginians*, and good wishes always. Accept these in turn, Doctor and Madam, from one of the biggest, busiest, laziest of your friends. We are all on a Xmas visit to Mr. Russell Sturgis, a Merchant Prince. We are feasting in splendour; we have brought down new dresses; our Papa is going to London to-morrow though, to preside at the Bagmen's dinner.⁸⁶ He hopes his speech will come better off than at Edinburgh. He wants to be at No. IV.⁸⁷ very much, but calls on his time are so constant that he can scarcely get to work unless he flies from house and home. And how go away when the girls are invited to hospitalities? They are so happy and pleased that I must be so too; and ma foi *The Virginians* must wait for a day or two.

A Scotchman here tells me that nobody at Edinburgh spends more than a thousand a year. Hadn't I better come and live there? Hadn't I better come and see you all? Well, I long to do so.

28. — The letter stopped here on Xmas day and ever since I have had so much fish a-frying that I have not been able to finish the good wishes. We had a stupid dinner enough of the bagmen, and yesterday I came back to the Merchant Prince's, and to-day we are going through a sweet calm, many-elled, gable-ended country, to pay a visit to a neighbour or two. I think I have no news positively. It was breakfast time not long since, and hark there goes the gong to lunch!

Jan. 2. — Is this absurd letter never to go away? Now it is

⁸⁶ Thackeray's speech at the Commercial Travellers' Dinner on December 26 is reprinted in Hotten's *Thackeray*, pp. 219-223.

⁸⁷ Chapters 13 to 16 for February, 1858.

written from the Garrick Club. I am just back from the Merchant Prince's (I ran away on the 29th and only went back yesterday). Our holiday is over, and I am grappling with No. IV. You will see at any rate, though I don't write, I think of you and Rutland Street. I hope you had no shares in the Western Bank.⁸⁸ My acquaintance Captain Reddie tells me that the desolation in Edinburgh is awful, and that 7 old ladies were carried to Asylums two days ago. . . .

I read no new books, only Newspapers and Magazines of 1756, get out my numbers with extraordinary throes and difficulty — am as one distraught while the process is going on, and if I don't do that, am for days without ability to do anything else. I think I am no richer this day than I was on the 1 January last. Yes, Doctor, the Oxford election cost £850. It was a cowardly robbery of a poor, innocent, rightly-served man. And if I had won — that is the beauty of it — I should have been turned out, my agents, in spite of express promises to me, having done acts which would have ousted me. May the present be a luckier year to me, and a happy one!

1343. TO WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL 1857⁸⁹

Address: W. H. Russell Esq^r. Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday m^s

Mon cher Confrere.

Yesterday I had the misfortune to forget that I was engaged to you on Sunday, & to ask some Scotch friends of mine the Blackwoods who were most ineffably hospitable to me whilst I was in Edinburgh to dine here on that day — and somebody else to meet them of course. Pray don't be angry with me. Eat drink & be merry without me. 'Go it my boy' as a noble creature said when

⁸⁸ See above, No. 1335, note 80.

⁸⁹ This note appears to have been written late in 1857, when Thackeray had at last ceased to lecture on *The Four Georges*.

she sent her husband the door-key to the Club: and believe me
Ever yours

W M T.

Ex-lecturer at the T. R. Almack's

I break my note open — just hearing of M^{rs} Russells invitation to the girls but you see they must stop at home as well as their Papa to meet our unlucky friends.

1344.

TO WILLIAM DUER ROBINSON

23 JANUARY-25 FEBRUARY 1858

Published in part, *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 354-357.

Saturday . Jan 23. 1858. 36 Onslow Sq^{re}

A sudden gust of friendship blows from this boosom in the direction of Houston Street and my Wobinson. The fact is, Sir, I was in the drawing room just now, and out of a portfolio on one of the elegant rosewood tables, there peeped a photograph, w^h represented the honest old mug of W. D. R. How is he? Can he afford to drink Claret still? are there any cocktails about 604? I would give a guinea to be there — and now and then get quite a bust of feeling towards folks on your side. Davis's marriage¹ came upon me quite inopportunely; I have had to give presents to no less than 4 brides this year and I can't positively stand no more. The last was Libbie Strong, whose votive teapot is at this present moment in my house, waiting for an opportunity to X the water. What can I tell you about myself? Nothing very good, new, or funny. That complaint you wot of is never cured quite, and I have the doctor always about my hydraulic engine. Virginians are doing pretty well thank you, but not so very well as we expected so that I only draw 250£ per month instead of 300£ as the agreement is. But I like everybody who deals with me to make money by me so I cede those 50£ you see until better times. I have just paid

¹ J. C. Bancroft Davis married Frederica Gore, daughter of James Gore King, on November 19, 1857.

the last of the Oxford Election bills, and got how much do you think out of 900£ — 13£ is the modest figure returned. Then you know J. G. King's Sons have somehow forgotten to send me any dividends upon Michigan Centrals & N Y Centrals. So I am not much richer in Jan 58 than I was in Jan 57. that's the fact. But then in compensation I live very much more expensively. Charles, much injured by going to America, has been ruined by the company he keeps next door. Next door has a butler and a footman in livery. Charles found it was impossible to carry on without a footman in livery: so when the girls dine off 2 mutton chops they have the pleasure of being waited on by 2 menials who walk round & round them. We give very good dinners. Our house is full of pretty little things. Our cellar is not badly off. Sir I am going in a few days to pay 100£ for 18 dozen of '48 Claret that is not to be drunk for 4 years. That is the price Wine has got to now. 'Tis as dear as at New York. No wonder a fellow can't afford to send a marriage token to his friend when he lives in this here extravagant way. I fondly talk of going to America in the autumn and finishing my story *sur les lieux*. I want to know what was the colour of Washingtons livery — Where the deuce was George Warrington carried after he was knocked down at Braddock's defeat. Was he taken by Indians into a French fort? I want him to be away for a year and a half, or until the siege of Quebec. If you see Fred. Cozzens or George Curtis, ask them to manage this job for me, and send me a little line stating what really has happened to the eldest of the 2 Virginians² (This is genteeler paper than the other, w^{ch} I use for my "copy" paper.) I only got my number done last night, and am getting more disgustingly lazy every day. I *can't* do the work until it's wanted. And yet with all these attacks of illness w^h I have, I ought, you know I ought. Sir I came up stairs now to do a little work before dinner; only I thought how much pleasanter it would be to have a chat with old Robinson! Do you see in the Times this morning the death of Beverley Robinson late a Captain of the R. Artillery?

² For Cozzens's reply to these queries, see below, No. 1350.

He must be one of you. And now it is 5 minutes to 7: and it is time to go dress for dinner. Hark at the Brougham-horse snorting in the frost!



HE DRESSES FOR DINNER

without a fee — gave him the 25£ cheque w^h they gave me for the lecture. It was easily earned money wasn't it? How shall I fill up the rest of this thin paper? Ever since the Georges I have been in disgrace with the Bo Monde. My former entertainers the Earls and Marquises having fought very shy of me. This year they're beginning to come back.

Thursday 25th Yes, but the 25th February. What a time this letter has been a-composing! I have written a number, two numbers³ since I began have had 3 confounded attacks of spasms have spent ever so much money grown ever so much older and not a bit wiser — am just at my desk again after attack No. 3. Yes, Claret drunk not wisely, but too well,⁴ an immoderate use of the fleshpots are beginning to tell upon the friend of W. D. R. If I don't write this letter off now I shall never send it that's flat. It must go, Robinson, and I want you to ask Duer **THIS IS THE ONLY IMPORTANT PART** of the letter, whether (I cannot spoil my own mug on the other side)⁵ whether the Michigan Centrals and New York Centrals are ever going to pay, and what becomes of

³ Numbers IV for February and V, chapters 17 to 20, for March.

⁴ *Othello*, V, ii, 344.

⁵ This part of the letter is written overleaf from the drawing reproduced above.

the absent dividend of last year? ⁶ What are my Michigan Bonds worth now? Will you get me a philosophic answer to these questions please? What more? I often look at your beauteous image. Next week I am going to Macready in the country to read one of those demd old Georges. He offers me 50£ to read in 2 little towns close by and I won't. Why do for nothing what I wont do for 50£? because I am sick of letting myself out for hire — I have just bought a famous little cob that carries me to perfection. Adieu Robinson, Davis, Duer.



1345. TO WILLIAM CHARLES MACREADY

19 FEBRUARY 1858

Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: Thackeray February 20.

Friday

A thousand thanks my dear Macready. This is not to answer your note w^h I have left on my study table at home: but to say I have not quite made up my mind about the two other lectures. I have but the Georges: and dont want to give the IVth of them. Let me have 24 hours to think please, and tomorrow I will apprise you whether it shall be yea or nay.

Ever yours

(Waiting for the proofs of No V. w^h I got up at 6 this m^s to finish)
W M Thackeray.

1346. TO WILLIAM CHARLES MACREADY

22 FEBRUARY 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

Monday. Feb 22.

My dear Macready Instead of writing to you on Saturday, I was sent to bed with one of those fits of spasms that assail me

⁶ See above, No. 988, note 175.

about a dozen times a year, and am still on my back though I hope to be up & stirring tomorrow.

I think that difficulty I spoke of is fatal against lecturing at Yeovil & Bridport and so I will only give my one little performance at Sherborne under your auspices I hope I'll come down on Monday stay Tuesday with you & Wednesday return to my work. Thank you for thinking of that kindly harmless way of putting 50£ in my pocket. It seems absurd to refuse them, doesn't it? But I believe the moderation is the better policy, & so, Sir, won't take your money.

But I shall gladly shake you by the hand this day fortnight & meanwhile am

— Yours dear Macready always
W M Thackeray.

1347.

TO JOHN REUBEN THOMPSON

25 FEBRUARY 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^{re}
Brompton.
Feb 25.

My dear Thompson

I was away from home when your melancholy news came last year, and have left a longer interval than I intended before writing to you and begging you to tell M^{rs} Stanard how sincerely I deplore her loss⁷ and esteemed and respected the friend who has been called away from among you. I have been much in Virginia since as you know who have followed my books, and that friendly kind honest good Stanard has been constantly in my mind as I thought of your dear little friendly place. I have all his hospitality in my recollection the pictures on his walls, the flavour of his wine, the tone of his voice, and the generous welcome.

M^{rs} Stanard knew how much I like him. I counted on more

⁷ Robert Craig Stanard, Mrs. Stanard's husband, had died in June, 1857.

than one other pleasant meeting with him — Your City will hardly be the same to me without him. And to you others who lived with him every day — to the wife whom he cherished with such extraordinary tenderness, and who knows his intimate and sacred good qualities a thousand times better than we do, what must his loss be! No stranger has a right to speak in the presence of such a great domestic affliction, but we may say an honest word of regard and respect for a good man departed, and I beg you my dear Thompson to tell M^{rs} Stanard and her boy how very warmly and gratefully I think of Robert Stanards kindness to me, and how heartily I liked and respected him.

I am myself so constantly unwell now that I begin to think my turn to be called cannot be delayed very long. These Virginians take me as much time as if I was writing a History. I often hope that I may come over and finish it on the ground itself, and certainly mean to do so if health & circumstance will let me. I would give a guinea to sit in the Rocking Chair⁸ again, and shake a few hands in Richmond. Give my regards to any who remember me to Gibson and Myers and your good father;⁹ and please to tell M^{rs} Stanard how very sincerely I am hers

and yours my dear Thompson

W M Thackeray.

We are in a great political excitement here, but I was cured of my political fever by the bleeding I had at Oxford last year. I can't spend 1000£ at every election.

⁸ See above, No. 972.

⁹ John Thompson, a native of New Hampshire, who had some years earlier established a store in Richmond (*Poems of John R. Thompson*, ed. John S. Patton, New York, 1920, p. xi).



FILBY FECIT. DE Gridsmulth's New Coat.

From a sketch by Thackeray

To a new Plum-coloured Coat
Dr. Goldsmith's Gift to Gold
To J. Filby 20



DR. JOHNSON AND DR. GOLDSMITH.
Goldsmith in the new Plum-coloured Coat. Mr. Filby looking anxiously after it.

From a drawing by Thackeray

1348.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

3 MARCH 1858

Extract and facsimile of the drawing published by Dr. Brown and Henry Hill Lancaster, *North British Review*, February, 1864, p. 256. My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, p. 327, where the drawing is also reproduced.

Kensington, Wednesday, March 3

My Dear Brown — Behold a drawing¹⁰ instead of a letter. I've been thinking of writing you a beautiful one ever so long, but, etc. etc. And instead of doing my duty this morning I began this here drawing, and remembered I owed Madam one, and will pay your debt some other day — no, *part* of your debt. I intend to owe the rest and like to owe it, and think that I'm sincerely grateful to you always, my dear good friends.

W M T.

The Novel gets on pooty well — well, I think the last week¹¹ very well.

A *marquis* and a *lord* had twice of the pudding last week, Mrs. Brown.

P.S. — Am afraid I shall try Parliament again if a dissolution. Glad you liked the Nymphs and the misogyny.¹² *κάρδος* is a thistle:

¹⁰ "Goldsmith, to divert the tedious minutes [while waiting for a late-comer to dinner], strutted about, bragging of his dress, and I believe was seriously vain of it, for his mind was wonderfully prone to such impressions. 'Come, come, (said Garrick,) talk no more of that. You are, perhaps, the worst — eh, eh!' — Goldsmith was eagerly attempting to interrupt him, when Garrick went on, laughing ironically, 'Nay you will always *look* like a gentleman; but I am talking of being well or ill *drest*.' 'Well, let me tell you, (said Goldsmith,) when my tailor brought home my bloom-coloured coat, he said, 'Sir, I have a favour to beg of you. When anybody asks you who made your clothes, be pleased to mention John Filby, at the Harrow, in Water-lane.'" JOHNSON. 'Why, Sir, that was because he knew the strange colour would attract crowds to gaze at it, and thus they might hear of him, and see how well he could make a coat even of so absurd a colour.'" (Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, ed. Hill and Powell, II, 83)

¹¹ During which Thackeray had begun number VI of *The Virginians* for April, chapters 21 to 24.

¹² See *Works*, X, 148-149.

looked it out in Lexicon. Tremendously busy. Don't report well of my health, often knocked over. . . Best regards to Madam.

1349.

TO LADY STANLEY

11 MARCH 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

36 O. Square. Thursday 11 March
S. W

My dear Lady Stanley.

Hip Hip Hurray. I shall be delighted to come on the 20th and think its very kind of you to ask me, and hope you'll go on.

Returned home last night from a very pleasant excursion to Sherborne. Handsome old house of Queen Anne's time — Wonderful good old wine. Macready the man — even better than Macready the actor — a good scholar and gentleman — very nice in his family — His hobby is education and he has a school of 150 young rustics whom he teaches himself 3 times a week. Honest country families with gig lamps came into the lecture: got 25£ for the benefit of the Institution. Everybody pleased. Isn't it pleasant to be able to give pleasure to country folks with gig lamps and put 30£ worth of books on the shelves of a country Institution? The Benevolent Heart says Yea.

Always yours most sincerely
W M Thackeray

1350. FROM FREDERICK SWARTOUT COZZENS

21 MARCH 1858

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 357-359.

Chestnut Cottage

Sunday night Mch., 21st, 1858.

My dear Thackeray, — Your friend Mr. Robinson was good enough to leave your letter to him on my desk yesterday during

my absence, and I have employed this blessed day in hunting up data for your queries.¹³

First, as to the Washington livery. Of Mrs. Washington at the camp before Boston in Irving's "Life of Washington," Vol. 2, page 121, it says (incidental mention is made of the equipage in which she appeared there) a chariot and four with postilion in scarlet and white liveries. It has been suggested that this was an English style of equipage derived from the Fairfaxes: but in truth it was a style still prevalent at that time in Virginia. I see you say "blue and white."

Next, as to the disposition of George Warrington after the defeat of Braddock & Co.

You can by no means fulfil the dreams of Madam Esmond by making G. W. a prisoner in the hands of the Indians. The Indian does not know anything of prisoners of war, except to roast them afterwards.

There have been some few instances, where prisoners have been kept for a short time by the red men as menials, but in the end they were either tomahawked or served up in the usual style, or escaped, instances of which are familiar, scattered throughout frontier story or the earlier histories of New England.

But at Braddock's defeat, we have certain evidence upon this very point. The returns were; killed 456, wounded 421, safe 583 exclusive of women and black servants killed; 3 women only were saved alive — one was retained by the French Commander at Benagon the other two sent as slaves to Canada.

My dear old Thackeray, I am delighted to hear that you think of coming here in the autumn.

Your "Virginians" have surprised and pleased all your intimate friends. We all think your pictures of Virginia life are perfect and wonder how you are able to do it. "Oh!" said Irving to me the other day in that sweet, husky, honeycomb voice, "What a fine book he will make of that!" "Have you read it Mr. Irving?" I asked. "No, I have so much to do, but I know Thackeray. I know

¹³ See above, No. 1344.

what he is capable of doing, a man of great mind, far superior to Dickens. Dickens's prejudices are too limited to make such a book as Thackeray is capable of making of the 'Virginians.'"

Well, well, for my part, I am surprised at the faithful delineation you have given of old "Virginny."

I must except to your making George Washington use language unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, as you do.¹⁴ If you look at the courteous language of old "Virginny," you will see nothing there but pure and polite English. Even Patrick Henry, the most illiterate of all his contemporaries, uses the most courteous phrases in debate. Where did he get this? Surely, from familiar intercourse with well-bred people for ¹⁵ otherwise we had no education.

...

Frederick S. Cozzens.

1351.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH

2 APRIL 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

Good Friday.

If I dont send this off now, I shall get muddled with the Virginians in a few days, and too bothered and nervous to write to any body including my dear old Mother — so she must have the little budget whilst the month is yet young: and hear what will be much more amusingly told by the girls who do all the fun and observation of the family now. Their talk is capital: it is delightful to hear the prattle, as they come home from their parties. Yesterday we went to Watford and thence to an advertized country house at Kings Langley, upon one of those excursions w^h I make in the newspaper every day, and now and then on the railroad. But I think one quarter of an hour at K. Langley, though it was a pretty lively place, was enough. Minny was the eagerest

¹⁴ See chapter 10 of *The Virginians*.

¹⁵ General Wilson reads *or*.

to come out of it. As for Anny, she seems determined to be happy anywhere, and good tempered always.

I was shocked not surprised to find the other day, that Colonel Newcome of Hyndford House has been speculating unluckily, that his Gutta percha company has already swallowed a thousand up and is calling out for a thousand more. He wrote me desiring me to buy all his wine — 100£ worth that is, consisting of Madeira Sherry Port Hermitage & Lunel — I wanted him to take the money without sending me the wine: but this he utterly refuses, declining to have anything but a bargain between us for what I dont want to buy. However we have agreed to take the Sherry & the Madeira — as for the others I mistrust his Port, & hate Lunel, and tasted the Hermitage w^h I found to be a nauseous liquor.¹⁶ O dear me, he was very kind when I was in the money scrape in old days, and bought our wine readily enough. This gave me an opportunity of seeing Mary & Julia Parker, and the Baby¹⁷ w^h is the most beautiful baby really I ever saw, and Cheri, and of being formally introduced to two young gentlemen who were about to dine. Charles says he is going to let the house at Midsummer: and is frightened by the menaced call of his bankrupt Company. All Scotland is ruined in the same way I hear by the failure of the joint stock banks Old maids and orphans and widows and half-pay officers by hundreds and thousands, robbed of their all, by banks w^h were declaring nine per cent dividends six months ago. I hope the New York & Michigan Centrals will serve us better, and have just made a new little purchase in the former, believing the Railway to be as good as anything in Europe.

M^r Pearman has given me warning and I have engaged a Frenchman in his place, with a good character for honesty and so forth. I find time to ride my little Cob about once a week. Last ride I had he was a great deal too lively to be pleasant: but the

¹⁶ Colonel Carmichael had even less luck in trying to dispose of his wines to the Oriental Club, of which he was a member. "The Committee tried samples of burgundy at 15s. per dozen," writes Baillie (*Oriental Club and Hanover Square*, p. 71), "and of port at 28s., and they informed the Colonel that they did not approve of them."

¹⁷ Florence Graham Carmichael.

truth is that the ride is good & wholesome whenever I do take it, better than walking w^h tires and doesnt strengthen much.

Look at this Summary of 3 months in & outgoings & Tremble!

	£
Spent in 3 months	792.
of w ^h last years bills	250
Horse, plate, books, gimcracks, property,	100.
M ^r Bakewell & Charles in advance	25
Charitable disbursements	25
Left for actual money expended	392
Received B & E. Virginians	750
Lectures 75 (25 to Thompson)	50
Harpers from New York — 3 no ^s	60
Railway Dividends (a quarter)	90
Copyrights a quarter	140
	<u>1090</u>
Surplus of gross receipts over gross expences —	<u>300£.</u>

Theres a pretty little sum totele isn't it? These 3 months I have been living at the rate of more than 3000 a year and making 4500. But I want to get it down to 2000 and wonder whether I shall. How did we manage when we hadnt 2? we lived quite as well upon 1. My personal expences have been about 25£ out of this — no say 35. I have bought 1000£ more 8 per cent American Railway stock — So I may be considered as the present possessor of a house and 650£ a year (my copyrights are yielding 600 but I only put 'em at 200) We could live on this if the worst came to the worst and as soon as necessity ordered — Meanwhile we are not good managers thats the fact and make less show with 3000 a year than many people with 1800.

Why Lady Rodd in her great family Coach doesn't spend as much as I do. But I wonder whether she has any bowels of compassion? There is Sims, Coachman. He is so good honest active good-humoured and willing that I cant find it in my heart to part from him when the season is over — Enter the young ladies —

They come and smile upon their pa, as I sit up here alone and glum. You see though I am writing to you I am thinking about No VII ¹⁸—can't help myself—and am very happy thinking about No VII after all—only silent and solitary. Tomorrow I am going into hospital at Thompsons for a couple of days: and hope I shall come out all the better for the discipline. Meanwhile out with you No VII! — let us see if we can do a page or two — and so God bless my dearest old Mother & G P.

W M T.

1352.

TO THOMAS FRASER

3 APRIL 1858

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mr. Blatner.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W.
Saturday

My dear Fraser.

Heres an extract from my mothers letter just come in. I've such a sad letter from Maria Hamerton: She says 'The dark mysterious stranger is closing round me: one or two more folds of his mysterious mantle, and the worlds strife must end. For my poor Bess, and my poor Marie my desire is for longer life. When she thought I was dying, Bess would have her sleep beside her, and then she would creep into my room, & put her arms round my neck & say softly 'Bess is so kind to little 'Cozy' but I love you in the deep deep corner of my little heart.' I believe the only thing for her is to be able to go to the seaside without the attendant fatigue of putting her apartment in order for letting'

I hope you'll put this in your pipe and smoke it

Yours

W M T.

¹⁸ For May, chapters 25 to 28.

1353.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH

9 APRIL 1858

Published in William Harris Arnold's *Ventures in Book Collecting* (London, 1923), pp. 78-80.

Friday. April 9.

My dearest Mother. Cant make out the Paris journey just now. Have to lecture on the 20th (Mind the proceeds of the lecture are for your ivories) have promised Lord Palmerston to dine at the Literary Fund¹⁹ on the 25th & am rather anxious to repair my defeat at the Dramatic dinner. want to show on the 1 of May at the Royal Academy dinner, and to get time to go into hospital with Thompson, being a good deal bothered at present by my old enemy. Am pretty well on with my work this month, and have found it go easier: am better in general health too I think and this is all my bulletin. For isn't there the days work before me and ought I not to tackle it? When it is done and I am tired, I dont like to write letters; you will fancy I am unwell: when it is not Done and to be done, I don't like to write letters. It reproaches me & says 'Come, Sir do me or nothing else.' And so we go on toiling & devising and tumbling and getting up again. I think it is good fun to hear the girls singing & humming down stairs, and though silent and solitary & preoccupied myself, and seeming very melancholy, am not the least so — but in a pleasant bearable grave grey frame of mind — considering life very tolerable. To be sure it ought to be, with prosperity and good children.

Don't, in the kindness of your heart, propose the open carriage to Mary. I can't have any intimacy. I don't respect her, or regard her, or forgive her. She has been rude to my daughters, and rude to my mother. I dont harbour a pennyworth of ill feeling and will do anything in my small power to serve the young ones & old ones at Hyndford House — But friendship is impossible: why it's a perpetual hypocrisy not to laugh at that astounding — hullo!

¹⁹ For Thackeray's speech on this occasion and at the Royal Academy dinner, see Melville's *Thackeray*, II, 110-116.

Stop! Better go on with the Virginians No VII, than abusing your neighbour.

I copied an extract of your Maria's letter to the girls and sent it to your favorite Tom. Fraser — with the injunction 'Put that in your pipe and smoke it' He says 'there will be no difficulty' and I told him to write to Maria and send her some money w^h he promises to do. My adorer John Brown writes me that they will put me up for Edinburgh. Think I had best leave it alone: am afraid I am too old to speak now: but, never having had a purpose in life, or known what I was going to do until I was doing it, cant tell whether I shall refuse, or accept, or covet, or dont care for this honour if it comes. Come let us get to

Chapter

These feats of agility being over, the four gentlemen quitted the Bowling Green and ²⁰

The rest is no VII, page 16 of the The Virginians by

W. M. Thackeray.

1354.

TO MRS. BAXTER

10-23 APRIL 1858

Published in part, *American Family*, pp. 160-164.

April 10, 23.

36 Onslow Sq^{re}

My dear M^{rs} Baxter. Isn't it a horrible thing that Libbies tea pot is still in the cupboard yonder under Washington's bust? Is it a year since she was married? A set of weeks become a month and a set of months a year before I know where I am now. and every day of the year has its turmoil, trouble, illness, parties, letters, printers'-devils, duns botherations, and so we go on and on until the end of troubles and pleasures — Do you know heres the 10th of the month and only 3 pages of my number done? ²¹

²⁰ From chapter 26 of *The Virginians* (*Works*, X, 218).

²¹ "[Thackeray] says he cannot get ahead with the 'Virginians'," John Blackwood wrote to Lewes on May 23, 1858, "and was desperately pushed

I have had 2 attacks within the last fortnight of my enemy: each attack throwing me back a week or so. I have been with the girls to a deal of parties and dinners. That graceless Charles Pearman has left my service after five years, but has left a remembrance of himself behind with the house maid who has been with me 12 years a respectable honest ugly elderlyish person who must forsooth forget 35 years of decent life and respectable parentage, in order to read the old story with M^r Charles. O fie! — But to return to Libbie's tea pot, Captain Comstock wrote to me some time ago that he was coming to London and would take it with him — I not liking to trust the precious article to the common carriage or possible miscarriage of a steamer Hence the delay in the transmission of this domestic little article. Have I ever written to you before on this ugly paper? I find it pleasanter far to the pen than your beautiful cream-laid and gilt edges.

23. And here the letter again stopped 12 days ago; and, on Friday night after awful trouble, I only got my number done, just in time to send it by post to Liverpool & America. The book's clever but stupid that's the fact. I hate story-making incidents, surprises, love-making, &c more and more every day: and here is a third of a great story done equal to two thirds of an ordinary novel — and nothing actually has happened, except that a young gentleman has come from America to England — I wish an elderly one could do 'tother thing, and have the strongest wish to come and see you all. Are there any more Hamptonkins come or coming? What have we been about these 10 days? tramping the round of parties, giving dinners, and eating brandy peaches from New York — quite plain dinners, not ostentatious, but O dear me how much pleasanter the men's parties are than those with ladies, that's the fact. — Tomorrow Miss Anny gives her first drum — I have set my face hitherto against these entertainments from the peculiar nature of Our Society — we know great people & small, polite & otherwise: the otherwise are not a bit comfortable in company of the others but get angry if they are not asked. I

with the last No., having written the last 16 pages in one day, the last he had to spare" (Mrs. Porter, *John Blackwood*, p. 42).

know this horrible teafight will bring down all sorts of odium upon the givers: but they will have it, and though I'm not quite such a soft Papa as G B of 2^d Avenue, if my young women set their hearts on anything they are pretty sure to get it. I am afraid the 2 Lambert girls in the Virginians are very like them, but of course deny it if anybody accuses me.

We have been in the midst of immense political fluster. I have seen my name as a candidate for no less than 4 places in event of a dissolution of parliament, but dont want one now for a while. Let us have some more lectures and some more money first. My expenses (have I ever grumbled to you about them?) are awful. I have a one horse chay and spend 2600£ a year *at least*. Two families each with a carriage could live for that money—but they dont give away 500£ as somebody somehow does. Also at the end of the month when the number is done, I go and buy pooty things—6 such byootiful spoons as I brought home yesterday! And what do you think? I have had a new coat the first in four years. I have a famous little horse to ride and get on him once a fortnight. I have good daughters, good wine in the cellar, easy work, plenty of money in my pocket, a fair reputation—I ought to be happy oughtn't I? Eh bien! I dont think I am above 4 days in the month. A man without a woman is a lonely wretch. Hark at the bells dingdonging for Church! Shall I go? No I forgot—M^r & M^{rs} Blackwood, M^r & M^{rs} Pollen (O Sally Hampton such a pretty woman!) 4 Selves, Lord John Hay,²² Sir Charles Taylor,²³ M^r Bid-

²² Fourth son (1827–1916) of the eighth Marquess of Tweeddale and later Admiral of the Fleet.

²³ Sir Charles Taylor (1817–1876?), second Baronet, was Thackeray's most frequent companion during the last four or five years of his life. Taylor owned an estate at Hollycombe in Sussex and was a magistrate for that county. It was around this "rich, clever, sarcastic man about town", writes Escott (*Trollope*, p. 145), that the leading Thackerayans at the Garrick Club grouped themselves; he was "a figure prominent in the society of his time, as well as filling a position especially conspicuous and authoritative in all cricketing circles . . . Wherever, indeed, manly sports of any kind were popular, there Sir Charles Taylor was a personage. . . . Taylor's shrewd, bitter social estimates and aphorisms were remembered in the club long after he was forgotten." Yates (*Recollections and Experiences*, I, 237) reports that Trollope

well, M^r Motley ²⁴ (of U.S.A) M^r Creyke, and M^r Edwards ²⁵ are coming to dinner at 7. A Frenchman is my butler and valet, in the place of the seductive Charles — and poor Eliza went away

said of Taylor: "A man rough of tongue, brusque in his manners, odious to those who dislike him, somewhat inclined to tyranny, he is the prince of friends, honest as the sun, and as openhanded as Charity itself." He married a Mrs. Rose in 1867, but left no children.

²⁴ John Lothrop Motley (1814-1877), the American historian, who was well known in England through his *Rise of the Dutch Republic* (1856). Describing a dinner in London on May 17, at which both he and Thackeray were present, Motley wrote to his wife: "I believe you have never seen Thackeray. He has the appearance of a colossal infant, smooth, white, shiny ringlety hair, flaxen, alas, with advancing years, a roundish face, with a little dab of a nose upon which it is a perpetual wonder how he keeps his spectacles, a sweet but rather piping voice, with something of a childish treble about it, and a very tall, slightly stooping figure — such are the characteristics of the great 'snob' of England — nothing original, all planed down into perfect uniformity with that of his fellow-creatures. There was not much more distinction in his talk than in his white choker or black coat and waistcoat. As you like detail, however, I shall endeavor to Boswellise him a little, but it is very hard work. Something was said of Carlyle the author. Thackeray said, 'Carlyle hates everybody that has arrived — if they are on the road, he may perhaps treat them civilly.' Mackintosh praised the description in the 'French Revolution' of the flight of the King and Queen (which is certainly one of the most living pictures ever painted with ink), and Thackeray agreed with him, and spoke of the passages very heartily. Of the Cosmopolitan Club, Thackeray said, 'Everybody is or is supposed to be a celebrity; nobody ever says anything worth hearing and everyone goes there with his white choker at midnight, to appear as if he had just been dining with the aristocracy. I have no doubt,' he added, 'that half of us put on the white cravat after a solitary dinner at home or at our club, and so go down among the Cosmopolitans.' " (*Correspondence*, ed. Curtis, I, 229-230)

²⁵ Henry Sutherland Edwards (1828-1906), a journalist and foreign correspondent who had recently met Thackeray through the Russian novelist Turgenev. "Thackeray had just been reading 'Madame Bovary'," Edwards (*Personal Recollections*, p. 36) writes, "and told me that he very much disliked the book. I confessed that I had read it with interest and admiration, mentioning particular chapters and scenes, such as the brilliant description of the banquet, the dialogue between Madame Bovary and the priest who mistakes her moral malady for a physical one, and so on. I asked the great writer whether they possessed no merit.

"The book is bad," he said. "It is a heartless, coldblooded study of the downfall and degradation of a woman."

3 days ago — going into the room and giving a last fond look at her young ladies, whom she has faithfully and affectionately tended since Childhood. It's pitiable, isn't it? Meanwhile, comme à l'ordinaire I know who will have to pay the Doctor — Last year the lady with whom my wife lives, made a great outcry because her house was robbed of goods to the value of 25£ & her plate. I gave her 25£ and 6 table spoons 6 tea ditto 6 forks — So it was I in fact who was robbed; but she goes on crying about it to this present day. Here have I been chattering till it is time for dinner! My dear kind old friend — once and again it is a pleasure to come and sit down and talk to you — Give my best regards to all, & God bless you — Perhaps you'll let S S H have this and my dooty to her. You see I dont like to stop but keep chattering on till I'm in the hall, down the steps and actually out of doors — Good bye.

W M T.

1355.

TO JAMES WILSON ²⁸

MAY 1858 ²⁹

Hitherto unpublished.

Private.

36 Onslow Sq^e Sunday ev^g

My dear Wilson.

You may remember some conversation w^h occurred at the table where we met on Tuesday. I have a note from M^r Dickens on the subject of a common report derogatory to the honor of a young lady ³⁰ whose name has been mentioned in connection with his.

²⁸ Wilson, Thackeray's neighbor at 19 Onslow Square, was later the father-in-law of Walter Bagehot.

²⁹ This note appears to have been written not long before Dickens's separation from his wife on May 21, 1858 (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 21).

³⁰ Ellen Lawless Ternan, daughter of the well-known actress Mrs. Frances Eleanor Ternan (1803?–1873). For an account of Miss Ternan's relations with Dickens, see chapters 15 and 16 of Thomas Wright's *The Life of Charles Dickens* (London, 1935).

He authorizes me to contradict the rumour on his own solemn word and his wife's authority.

Faithfully yours
W. M. Thackeray.

My daughter and I dine with you on Tuesday s. v. p.

1356.

TO LADY STANLEY

24 MAY 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Lady Stanley

If you please may I bring with me tomorrow my disciple Mr Creyke, who was with Lord Carlisle in Ireland and whom I wish to hear the lecture as it praises the Carlisle family — and Mr Motley the American historian a very agreeable presentable gentleman-like man.³¹ At 5.30 PRECISELY is the word.

Very faithfully yours
W M T.

³¹ Motley (*Correspondence*, ed. Curtis, I, 241) wrote to his wife on May 30: "The lecture was in the back drawing-room of a very large and elegant house, and the company — not more than fifty or sixty in number — were all comfortably seated. It was on George III. — one of the set of the four Georges, first delivered in America, and which have often been read in England, but have never been printed. I was much impressed with the quiet, graceful ease with which he read — just a few notes above the conversational level — but never rising into the declamatory. This light-in-hand manner suits well the delicate, hovering rather than superficial, style of the composition. He skims lightly over the surface of the long epoch, throwing out a sketch here, exhibiting a characteristic trait there, and sprinkling about a few anecdotes, portraits, and historical allusions, running along from grave to gay, from lively to severe, moving and mocking the sensibilities in a breath, in a way which I should say was the perfection of lecturing to high-bred audiences. I suppose his manner, and his stuff also, are somewhat stronger for larger and more heterogeneous assemblies, for I have no doubt he left out a good deal which might jar upon the ears polite of his audience on this occasion. Still, I was somewhat surprised at the coolness with which he showed up the foibles and absurdities of kings, and court, and court folks in a former but not remote reign, before a small company, which consisted of the cream of London cream.

1357. TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
MAY 1858³²

Hitherto unpublished.

My dearest Mother. My letter wont be as neatly written as usual, for I write all askew lying on my back these 4 days under Thompson's inevitable operations. The first 2 days to add to the pleasure I had the spasms as well as the other malady But the last 3 attacks have been decidedly lighter, and I sleep through most part of 'em. So the poor girls' drum went off, and the people who are not asked are all angry as I expected and they agree now that it will be wise never to drum again. The rooms looked very pretty the fire places being crammed with 20/ worth of lurid flowers and I delighted Lady Airlie by telling her M^{rs} Fladgates artless compliment who is that handsome woman in the door with the black lace Behind? Everybody praised Pauline but but BUT, I know she's not tall enough for the place.

In spite of the pain & bother, the rest up here has not been unpleasant. When do I ever get 4 days to myself without printers devils engagements petitions for money — O stop Ive forgotten

They seemed to enjoy it, and to laugh heartily at all the points without wincing." For another account of the occasion, which includes a list of the persons present, see a letter of Lady Stanley's daughter Katherine, published in *The Amberley Papers; the letters and diaries of Lord and Lady Amberley*, 2 vols., ed. Bertrand and Patricia Russell (London, 1937), I, 49-51.

³² This letter was written several days after the Thackerays' evening party of Monday, May 24, which Motley describes to his wife in a letter of May 30 (*Correspondence*, ed. Curtis, I, 239-240). On the day before the party a dinner was given at Thackeray's home, of which Motley writes (I, 235): "I sat between Thackeray's two daughters. They are both intelligent and agreeable. The youngest told me she liked 'Esmond' better than any of her father's books. Thackeray, by the way, evidently considers that kind of thing his forte. He told me that he hated the 'Book of Snobs,' and could not read a word of it. 'The Virginians', he said, was devilish stupid, but at the same time most admirable; but that he intended to write a novel of the time of Henry V., which would be his *capo d'opera*, in which the ancestors of all his present characters, Warringtons, Pendennis's, and the rest would be introduced. It would be a most magnificent performance, he said, and nobody would read it."

poor M^r Langley³³ to whom I give 1£ a week for a sham job! I must ring and ask about M^r Langley — yes he has been here sure enough poor fellow yes he is coming again. We pack him up his sovereign. May we always have one to spare for a poor fellow!

Well what to say? Here is sad news in the literary world — no less than a separation between M^r & M^{rs} Dickens — with all sorts of horrible stories buzzing about. The worst is that Im in a manner dragged in for one — Last week going into the Garrick I heard that D is separated from his wife on account of an intrigue with his sister in law. No says I no such thing — its with an actress — and the other story has not got to Dickens's ears but this has — and he fancies that I am going about abusing him! We shall never be allowed to be friends that's clear. I had mine from a man at Epsom the first I ever heard of the matter, and should have said nothing about it but that I heard the other much worse story whereupon I told mine to counteract it. There is some row about an actress in the case, & he denies with the utmost infuriation any charge against her or himself — but says that it has been known to any one intimate with his family that his and his wifes tempers were horribly incompatible & now that the children are grown up — it is agreed they are to part — the eldest son living with her the daughters &c remaining under the care of Miss Hogarth who has always been mother governess house-keeper everything to the family. I havent seen the statement³⁴

³³ S. Langley, Thackeray's secretary, who lived at "M^r R. Emersons Heath St Hampstead" according to an entry in Thackeray's address-book for 1858.

³⁴ The notorious "Violated Letter", a defence of his conduct which Dickens sent on May 25 to Arthur Smith, the manager of his readings. Smith was empowered to show this document, in which Dickens expresses himself much more freely than in the "Address" on the same subject published on June 8 in *The Manchester Guardian* and on June 12 in *Household Words*, to anyone whom it might "really concern". In view of the elasticity of this restriction, it is not surprising that a copy of the letter should have found its way into the columns of *The New York Tribune* of August 16. The passage concerning Miss Ternan, who was, like her mother, an actress, reads: "Two wicked persons [Dickens's mother-in-law and her youngest daughter] who should have spoken very differently of me, in consideration of earned respect and gratitude, have (as I am told, and indeed to my personal knowledge) coupled with this separation the name of a young woman for whom I have a great attachment

but this is what is brought to me on my bed of sickness, and I'd give 100£ (if it weren't true.) To think of the poor matron after 22 years of marriage going away out of her house! O dear me its a fatal story for our trade.

1358.

TO ADELAIDE PROCTER

4 JUNE 1858

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, XIII, xxii-xxiii. My text is taken from a transcript given Lady Ritchie by George Murray Smith.

36 Onslow Square.

June 4th.

My dear Adelaide,

Thank you for the little book³⁵ with the kind little inscription on the first page. There will always be a between us, won't there? and we shall like each other out of our books and melancholies and satires and poetries and proses. Why are your verses so very very grey and sad? I have been reading them this morning till the sky has got a crape over it — other folks' prose I have heard has sometimes a like dismal effect, one man's especially I mean with whom I am pretty intimate, and who writes very glumly though I believe he is inwardly a cheerful wine-bibbing easy-going person, liking the wicked world pretty well in spite of all his grumbling. We can't help what we write though; an unknown something works within us and makes us write so and so. I'm putting this case *de me* (as usual) and *de te*. I don't like to think you half so sad as your verses. I like some of them very much indeed: especially the little tender bits. All

and regard. I will not repeat her name — I honor it too much. Upon my soul and honor, there is not a more virtuous and spotless creature than that young lady. I know her to be innocent and pure, and as good as my own dear daughters. Further, I am quite sure that Mrs. Dickens, having received this assurance from me, must now believe it, in the respect I know her to have for me, and in the perfect confidence I know her in her better moments to repose in my truthfulness."

³⁵ *Legends and Lyrics* (1858).

the allusions to children are full of a sweet natural compassionateness: and you sit in your poems like a grey nun with three or four little prattlers nestling round your knees, and smiling at you, and a thin hand laid upon the golden heads of one or two of them: and having smoothed them and patted them, and told them a little story, and given them a bon bon the grey nun walks into the grey twilight, taking up her own sad thoughts and leaving the *parvulos* silent and wistful. There goes the Angelus! There they are lighting up the chapel. Go home little children, to your bread and butter and teas: and kneel at your bedside in crisp little nightgowns.

I wonder whether this has anything on earth to do with Adelaide Anne Procter's poems? I wish the tunes she sang were gayer: but *que voulez vous?* The Lord has made a multitude of birds and fitted them with various pipes, (there goes *my* Anny singing in her room, with a voice that is not so good as Adelaide Sartoriss but which touches me inexpressibly when I hear it) and the chorus of all is *Laus Domino*.

I am writing in this queer way, I suppose (because I went to St Paul's yesterday — Charity Children's day,³⁶ Miss, and the sight and sound immensely moved and charmed,

Yours affectionately, dear Adelaide,

W. M. Thackeray.

³⁶ Thackeray rarely missed the annual meeting of the children from the Charity Schools of London, an event which is described in Blake's "Holy Thursday" and in his own lecture on George III (*Works*, VII, 676). "It is the finest thing in the world —", he said to Motley (*Correspondence*, ed. Curtis, I, 253), whom he found in Dean Milman's pew at St. Paul's on June 3, "finer than the Declaration of Independence." This picturesque ceremony, we learn from Wheatley (*London*, III, 52), "has been discontinued since 1867, in consequence of the interruption to the service rendered necessary by the erection of a huge gallery round the dome area."

1359.

TO EDMUND YATES

13 JUNE 1858

Published in *Garrick Club: Correspondence*,³⁷ p. 2. My text is taken from a draft in Thackeray's hand owned by Mrs. Fuller.

36 Onslow Square

June 13.

Sir

I have received 2 numbers of a little paper called 'Town Talk', containing notices respecting myself of w^h, as I learn from the best authority,³⁸ you are the writer.

In the first article of Literary Talk you think fit to publish an incorrect statement of my private dealings with my publishers.³⁹

In to days number appears a so called 'Sketch'⁴⁰ containing a description of my manners person & conversation and an account of my literary works w^h of course you are at liberty to praise or condemn as a literary critic.

But you state with regard to my conversation, that it is either 'frankly cynical or affectedly benevolent & good natured': and of my works (lectures) that in some 'I showed an extravagant adulation for rank and position w^h in other lectures — 'as I knew how to cut my coat according to my cloth' — 'became the object of my bitterest attack'.

As I understand your phrases, you impute insincerity to me when I speak good-naturedly in private; assign dishonorable motives to me for sentiments w^h I have delivered in public, and

³⁷ A rare four-page pamphlet distributed among the members of the Club shortly before the General Meeting of July 10.

³⁸ Yates (*Recollections and Experiences*, II, 13) identifies Thackeray's informant merely as "a well-known *littérateur*, whom I at that time believed to be a friend of mine", and in a marginal gloss, more vindictively, as "Judas".

³⁹ "LITERARY TALK . . . Mr. Thackeray is said to receive £200 a month from Messrs. Bradbury and Evans for the 'Virginians'." (*Town Talk*, June 5, p. 51).

⁴⁰ See the facsimile reproduction opposite page 90. This article was the starting-point of what later came to be known as "The Garrick Club Affair".

charge me with advancing statements w^h I have never delivered at all.

Had your remarks been written by a person unknown to me, I should have noticed them no more than other calumnies: but as we have shaken hands more than once, and met hitherto on friendly terms, (You may write to one of your employers, M^r Carruthers of Edinburgh,⁴¹ & ask whether very lately I did not speak of you in the most friendly manner) I am obliged to take notice of articles w^h I consider to be, not offensive & unfriendly merely, but slanderous and untrue.

We meet at a Club where, before you were born I believe, I & other gentleman have been in the habit of talking, without any idea that our conversation would supply paragraphs for professional vendors of 'Literary Talk', and I don't remember that out of that Club I ever exchanged 6 words with you. Allow me to inform you that the talk w^h you may have heard there is not intended for newspaper remark; & to beg, as I have a right to do, that you will refrain from printing comments upon my private conversation; that you will forego discussions however blundering, on my private affairs; & that you will henceforth please to consider any question of my personal truth & sincerity as quite out of the province of your criticism.

W. M. Thackeray.

E. Yates Esq^r ⁴²

⁴¹ Yates succeeded Shirley Brooks in 1855 as London correspondent of the *Inverness Courier*, which was edited by Dr. Robert Carruthers. See above, No. 1309.

⁴² Mrs. Fuller owns three drafts of this letter. The second does not differ materially from the final version printed above, but the last paragraphs of the first draft (dated June 12) offer interesting variants:

"In todays number [of *Town Talk*] appears a so-called 'Sketch' of me, containing a description of my manners and person, announcing that certain works of mine have been 'dead failures', that in some lectures I showed 'an extravagant adulation of birth and position' w^h in others became 'the object of my bitterest attacks' and attributing to me motives, base enough if real, but respecting w^h I trust my critic is even more at fault, than he is regarding my pecuniary dealings.

"Had your statements been made by an unknown person, of course I should have let them pass: but we have shaken hands together often, and been on civil

turn, and pity him. "Poor old boy! Disgusting nonsense! Infernal old pumps," &c. At last one friend descends to particulars.

Friend—"But I say, old fella, what floored you!"

Our Swell—Oh! 'fernal history!

Friend—What sort of history? Ancient or modern?

Our Swell—Ah, long before either of 'em! About some swell called William the Conqueror!"

One more example. Our swell weareth a wondrous pair of whitey-brown cool summer trousers, pegtoppion, enormous, magnificent! A friend meeting him attempteth to chaff him.

Friend—"Hallo, old fella! what superb bags! Why are those trousers like two French towns?"

(It will be perceived that the friend almeth at the old joke, aient Tonlon and Toulouse!)

Our Swell (*pondering a minute, then answering dreamily*)—"Two French towns! my trousers! Oh, ah! you mean something about Nankin, I suppose!"



LITERARY TALK.

Finding that our pen and ink portrait of Mr. Charles Dickens has been much talked about and extensively quoted, we purpose giving, each week, a sketch of some literary celebrity. This week our subject is

MR. W. M. THACKERAY.

HIS APPEARANCE.

Mr. Thackeray is forty-six years old, though from the

"Yes, yes," broke in the hoiser, "of course you will, by all means, but first finish the note—"

"If then my father still continues obdurate, we, who have lived but for each other, at least can die together."

"Certainly, it is the least you can do. A very sensible girl, that."

"I shall be at the Railway Station at nine o'clock to-morrow morning."

"The death? go! go! extra."

"Dowse, my friend, wish me joy; I really began to think all doctors have made a mistake after all."

"So do I," was the brief response. "Let us go and quaff a bumper to the health of Jimmie—tell me, Dowse, what will you take?"

"Cold, if I stand here much longer, I shall go home."

"Home! and you call yourself a friend—go to Bath!"

Upon that word, the Touters who had come creeping back, spake as with one voice—

"Bath? sir! Yes sir! hot bath? cold bath? sir or shower?"

Dowse was now beginning to shiver in his wet garment, hesitated, and with a Margate Touter, to hesitate was to be lost.

"Well, I think a hot bath might do me good, while you dry my clothes," good, while you dry my

"Of course it will, sir; all right air, this way sir!"

"And the other gent?" said the second Touter, approaching Poppleton.

"No," said that gentleman; "I'll wait."

This door for the waiting-room."

Poppleton, still in heroics, moved towards the door as directed. Dowse placed his hand upon his arm.

"Poppleton!"

"Enquire!"

This was too much for Dowse's patience, and from a sick friend he, no he did not *dear* Jimmie, he said something, to blot the parchment would require from the Recording angel, a tear—and then the friend disappeared in the Margate Bathing Establishment Mr. Thackeray, 2.

publication of the third or fourth number of *Vanity Fair*, that Mr. Thackeray began to dawn upon the reading public as a great genius. The greatest work, which, perhaps as the exception of *The Newcomes*, is the most perfect literary dissection of the human heart, done with the clearest and most unsparring hand, had been offered to and rejected by several of the first publishers in London. But the public saw and recognized its value; the great guns of literature, the Quarterly and the Edinburgh, boomed forth their praises, the light *tirailleurs* in the monthly and weekly press re-echoed the *Jeus-de-jote*, and the novelist's success was made. *Pendennis* followed, and was equally valued by the literary world, but scarcely so popular with the public. Then came *Edmond*, which fell almost still-born from the press; and then the *Newcomes*, perhaps the best of all. The *Virginians*, now publishing, though admirably written, lacks interest of plot, and is proportionately unsuccessful.

HIS SUCCESS.

commencing with *Vanity Fair*, culminated with his "Lectures on the English Humorists of the Eighteenth Century," which were attended by all the court and fashion of London. The prices were extravagant, the Lecturer's adulation of birth and position was extravagant, the success was extravagant. No one succeeds better than Mr. Thackeray in cutting his coat according to his cloth: here he flattered the aristocracy, but when he crossed the Atlantic, George Washington became the idol of his worship; the "Four Georges," the objects of his bitterest attacks. These last-named Lectures have been dead failures in England, though as literary compositions they are most excellent. Our own opinion is, that his success is on the wane; his writings never were understood or appreciated even by the middle classes; the aristocracy have been alienated by his American onslaught on their body, and the educated and refined are not sufficiently numerous to constitute an audience; moreover, there is a want of heart in all he writes, which is to be balanced by the most brilliant sarcasm and the most perfect knowledge of the workings of the

silvery whiteness of his hair he appears somewhat older. He is very tall, standing upwards of six feet two inches, and as he walks erect his height makes him conspicuous in every assembly. His face is bloodless, and not particularly expressive, but remarkable for the fracture of the bridge of the nose, the result of an accident in youth. He wears a small grey whisker, but otherwise is clean shaven. No one meeting him could fail to recognise in him a gentleman; his bearing is cold and uninviting, his style of conversation either openly cynical, or affectedly good natured and benevolent; his *bonhomie* is forced, his wit biting, his pride easily touched—but his appearance is invariably that of the cool, *sware*, well-bred gentleman, who, whatever may be rankling within, suffers no surface display of his emotion.

HIS CAREER.

For many years Mr. Thackeray, though a prolific writer, and holding constant literary employment, was unknown by name to the great bulk of the public. To *Fraser's Magazine* he was a regular contributor, and very shortly after the commencement of *Punch*, he joined Mr. Mark Lemon's staff. In the *Punch* pages, appeared many of his wisest, most thoughtful and witliest essays; "Mr. Brown's Letters to his Nephew" on love, marriage, friendship, choice of a club, &c., contain an amount of worldly wisdom, which, independently of the amusement to be obtained from them, render them really valuable reading to young men beginning life. The *Book of Snobs*, equally perfect in its way, also originally appeared in *Punch*. Here, too, were published his buffoneries, his Ballads of Policemen X, his James's Diary, and some other scraps, the mere form of which consisted in outrages on autobiography, and of which he is now deservedly ashamed. It was with the

CHAPTER IV.

The interior, or rather the principal room in the inferior of the Bathing Establishment, was after the model of that most ancient order of architecture, the barn—the walls, like many other wooden and worthless materials passed for something much better than they really were at the back of the room were large doors and windows, through which might be discerned, so it was styled in the advertisements, "A splendid view of the sea;" the upper portion of some bathing-machines were seen like so many stranded turtles close to the window—other bathing machines were crawling out into the water, while beyond them appeared a portion of the pier. The walls were spotted, or appeared to have broken out into an eruption of many-coloured advertising placards—bills of theatres, concerts, &c.—while a cabinet piano stood on one side, tastefully decorated with a small vase of flowers. Besides the piano, there was a table covered with magazines and newspapers, and in one corner of the room hung two pair of dusty boxing-gloves and some felle—the whole room presented a picture—those duplicate all who wish may contemplate by visiting any "popular watering-place within an easy railway distance of the metropolis—one of those vast collections of baths and washhouses which have been aptly termed "great national hospitals for out-door patients." The room had many occupants; at the piano, on a tall stool, sat a small, bony child, torturing, with fingers as hard and angular as dominoes, the keys of the piano; her mother, a harpy of a doubtful age,

human heart.

Our readers will be sorry to hear that Mr. Wilkie Collins is so unwell that he has been compelled to relinquish his serial tale, which was in course of preparation for *Household Words*, and to retire into the country for rest. Should he not derive speedy benefit, it is Mr. Collins' intention to try the hydropathic system.

Poetry happily is not extinct among us—poetic fathers have had poetic sons; and now we have a poetic father with a poetic daughter. Miss Procter—Barry Cornwall's daughter—is about to publish a volume of poems; and critics—*sy*, and harsh ones—speak more than favourably of Miss Procter's poetic powers.

The only autograph of Shakespeare in private hands—the only autograph of Shakespeare which money is ever likely to buy without a revolution—is to pass this month under the hammer of Messrs Sotheby and Wilkinson. Only five unmistakable autographs of Shakespeare are known (for we do not believe even in the Florio in the British Museum)—viz., the three signatures to his will on three sheets, the signature to the deed in the Guildhall Library, and this or the Garrick autograph, now offered to the greatest admirer with the longest purse. The Guildhall Library document is the counterpart of the conveyance of a house in Ireland-yard, near to the Blackfriars Theatre, which Shakespeare bought in 1612, and bequeathed by will to his daughter, Susanna Hall. It is genuine beyond all dispute. On this spot, on this bit of parchment, rested the right hand of the myriad-minded, the thousand-tongued Shakespeare—the greatest benefactor to the world that England, rich in such productions, has yet produced. Shakespeare, doubtless, read every line on this oblong bit of parchment, for Shakespeare's opinion might have been taken with advantage on any subject. Let some rich person buy it (will Miss Rurdett Countess listen to our entreaties, and present it to Shakespeare's house at Stratford-upon-Avon?) Its presence there, in a mulberry frame, would be most appropriate. The Guildhall signature cost Gog and Magog £147.

EDMUND YATES'S ARTICLE ON THACKERAY

From "Town Talk"

1360.

FROM EDMUND YATES

15 JUNE 1858⁴³

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, p. 3.

General Post Office,
June 15th, 1858.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, referring to two articles of which I am the writer.

You will excuse my pointing out to you, that it is absurd to suppose me bound to accept your angry "understanding" of my "phrases;" I do not accept it in the least; I altogether reject it.

I cannot characterize your letter in any other terms than those in which you characterized the article which has given you so much offense. If your letter to me were not both "slandrous and untrue" I should readily have discussed its subject with you, and avowed my earnest and frank desire to set right anything I

may friendly terms (I protest without any hypocrisy on my part) at a Club where we constantly meet, and where gentlemen {are or have hitherto been} have been in the habit of speaking unreservedly, without any idea that their conversation is to supply paragraphs for professional vendors of 'Literary Talk'

"Out of that Club I don't believe I ever exchanged 6 words with you: and read therefore with surprise that my 'conversation is openly cynical, or affectedly good natured and benevolent'. Allow me to inform you that the talk w^h you may have heard there, and could not elsewhere, is supposed to take place between gentlemen, and never intended for newspaper remark — and to beg, for one, — as I have a right to do — that you will refrain from printing remarks or opinions respecting my private conversation; that you will forego public discussion, however blundering, of my pecuniary affairs; and that you will henceforth please to consider the question of my truth and sincerity as quite out of the province of your criticism.

Your obt^d
W M Thackeray."

⁴³ According to Yates's narrative in *Recollections and Experiences* (II, 15-18) he originally intended to answer Thackeray's letter by detailing the personalities of which the novelist had been guilty in his own writings. Dickens (see *Memoranda*), to whom he turned for advice, found his reply "too flippant and too violent", and this note was sent in its place.

may have left wrong. Your letter being what it is, I have nothing to add to my present reply.

Edmund Yates.

1361. FROM GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS

17 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 361-362.

North Shore, Staten Island, June 17,
1858.

(This day eighty-three years ago, we had a tussle on Bunker Hill)

My dear Thackeray, — I have received all your kind messages, and we have a hundred times conceived a round robin to you which flew away before we caught it — and oh! there's no end of reasons why I haven't written to a man I love dearly. Then I've been fighting for you in papers, &c., for of course you know how you've been abused by us for "The Virginians" and especially the Washington.⁴⁴ It is curious that I have seen a copy of a MS. letter from Edward Mason to Routledge (I think) after the Lee difficulty at the battle of Monmouth,⁴⁵ out of which, it was thought by the indiscreet, personal difficulty might grow, in which Mason says, "Have no fear, for I have known W. from boyhood, and he never had but one opinion of the duels, &c." It has been the most

⁴⁴ The Washington that Thackeray drew in the early chapters of *The Virginians* aroused much resentment among his American readers, who had expected a heroic cartoon rather than a realistic portrait. Curtis came to his friend's defense both in *Harper's Weekly* ("Thackeray's Washington", February 20, 1858, pp. 114-115) and in *Harper's Magazine* (March, 1858, pp. 558-559).

⁴⁵ The stupidity or treachery of General Charles Lee, who engaged the British before Washington's arrival, nearly lost the Battle of Monmouth in 1778. Washington appeared in time to turn defeat into victory, but his reproof of Lee was not temperate, and in the court martial that he ordered, Lee was suspended from his command. Lee's subsequent abuse of Washington brought no direct reprisal, but it did lead to a duel between the cashiered general and John Laurens, one of Washington's aides.

tempestuous teapot you ever heard. Meanwhile I have been as happy as a king, with my queen and prince imperial under the trees here on the island.⁴⁶ We are all well, and you would not think it was all vanity, this writing, if you could see the eager circle of children and old men and maidens to whom I read the monthly "Virginians," with shouts of merriment and sometimes even a tear. We wonder if you will ever come back again, or if we are henceforth to shake hands with you at this long stretch; but your kindest memory does not go away. I am a sinner never to have sent you a solitary line before now. I give it an edge by two extracts — the one from Philadelphia, the other from New Orleans. — Good-bye. Think of us sometimes who often think of you.

Yours affectionately,
George W. Curtis.

1362. TO THE COMMITTEE
OF THE GARRICK CLUB
19 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, p. 1.

Gentlemen, 36, Onslow-square,
June 19, 1858

The accompanying letters ⁴⁷ have passed between me and Mr. Edmund Yates, another member of the Garrick Club.

Rather than have any further personal controversy with him, I have thought it best to submit our correspondence to you, with a copy of the newspaper which has been the cause of our difference.

I think I may fairly appeal to the Committee of the Garrick Club, to decide whether the complaints I have against Mr. Yates are not well founded, and whether the practice of publishing such articles as that which I enclose will not be fatal to the com-

⁴⁶ Curtis was living with his wife and son at the home of his father-in-law on Staten Island.

⁴⁷ Thackeray's letter of June 13 and Yates's note of June 15.

fort of the Club, and is not intolerable in a Society of Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,
W. M. Thackeray.

The Committee of the Garrick Club.

1363. FROM EDMUND YATES TO THE COM-
MITTEE OF THE GARRICK CLUB
19 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, p. 3.

43, Doughty Street, W.C.
June 19th, 1858.

Gentlemen,

I have just heard from Mr. Thackeray, that he has thought proper to lay before you the details of a personal difference between us.

This course has come upon me utterly unexpectedly, and I therefore beg you to suspend your judgment until I have consulted my friends, and been able to prepare my own version of the matter for submission to you.

Your obedient Servant,
Edmund Yates.

To the Committee of the Garrick Club.

1364. FROM ALEXANDER DOLAND
TO EDMUND YATES
19 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from Yates's *Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Yates, and the Garrick Club* (1859), p. 7.

Garrick Club, 19th June, 1858.

Sir, — I have the honour, by the direction of the Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th June.

I am further directed to inform you that a Special Meeting of

the Committee is called for Saturday next, at half past three o'clock, to take the subject of Mr. Thackeray's complaint into consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
Alexander Doland,
Secretary.

E. H. Yates, Esq.

1365. FROM EDMUND YATES TO THE
COMMITTEE OF THE GARRICK CLUB
23 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, pp. 3-4.

43, Doughty Street, W.C.,
June 23, 1858.

Gentlemen,

I have received an obliging intimation from the Secretary of the Club, that the Committee will assemble on Saturday next, for the purpose of taking into consideration a complaint made against me by Mr. Thackeray.

With the greatest respect I beg to submit that Mr. Thackeray's grievance is not one to be submitted to the Committee. His grievance is a certain article written by me in a certain newspaper: that article makes no reference to the Club, refers to no conversation that took place there, violates no confidence reposed there, either in myself or any one else.

This article may be in exceedingly bad taste, but I submit, with great deference, and subject to the Committee's better judgment, that the Committee is not a Committee of taste. This article may be most unintentionally incorrect in details, but unless I had so far forgotten the honour and character of a gentleman as wilfully to distort the truth, I still venture to submit that its inaccuracy is not a question for the Committee's collective decision.

Mr. Thackeray's course in laying this matter before the Com-

mittee I hold to be unprecedented. Unless I am mistaken, there are members of the Committee's own body, who have been the subject of very strong remarks in print by fellow-members of the Club, but who have no more thought of laying their personal injuries and resentments before a Committee of the Club, than before a Committee of the House of Commons.

Once again, I take this position with the greatest respect. If the Committee think otherwise, then I readily submit myself to the correction of the Committee, and recognize as fully as the Committee can, that Mr. Thackeray lays the correspondence before them in the legitimate and customary way.

In this case, but not otherwise, I strongly entreat the attention of the Committee to the terms of Mr. Thackeray's letter of the 14th instant, and when the Committee have heard that letter read, I ask whether Mr. Thackeray rendered it possible for me to express my regret for having given him offense.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Edmund Yates.

To the Committee, Garrick Club.

1366. FROM ALEXANDER DOLAND
TO THACKERAY AND YATES
26 JUNE 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, p. 4.

Garrick Club,
26th June, 1858.

Sir,

I have the honour, by the direction of the Committee, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, and to make the following communication to you.

At a Special Meeting of the Committee, on Saturday, the 26th June, 1858, it was unanimously resolved:

- 1st. That it is competent to the Committee to enter into Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates.
 - 2nd. That it is the opinion of the Committee that Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates are well founded, and that the practice of publishing such articles, being reflections by one Member of the Club against any other, will be fatal to the comfort of the Club, and is intolerable in a Society of Gentlemen.
 - 3rd. That in the opinion of the Committee, Mr. Yates is bound to make an ample apology to Mr. Thackeray, or to retire from the Club; and if Mr. Yates declines to apologize or retire, the Committee will consider it their duty to call a General Meeting of the Club to consider this subject.
 - 4th. That copies of these resolutions be sent to Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Yates.
- Lastly. That this Special Meeting of the Committee do stand adjourned to Saturday the 3rd of July.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, very humble servant,
Alexr. Doland, Secretary.

To W. M. Thackeray, Esq., and
To E. H. Yates, Esq.

1367.

TO MRS. BECHER

28 JUNE 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Becher. 1000 pardons — If you knew how busy and bothered I've been! And now having been ill in bed for 3 days I find 7 money applications on my table! I cant send more than 5 this time, as much at Michaelmas if need be. I say this because I am portioning out money to a certain purpose, & oughtn't

to dispose of more. Cut this ⁴⁸ with scissors for the papers almost untearable.

Ever yours

1368. FROM EDMUND YATES TO THE
COMMITTEE OF THE GARRICK CLUB
1 JULY 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Correspondence*, p. 4.

Doughty Street, W. C.,
July 1st, 1858.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter of the 26th ultimo, making me acquainted with the Resolutions you passed on that day, in reference to "Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates."

With all respect and deference, I beg to state to you, that I will not retire from the Club, and that I cannot apologize to Mr. Thackeray.⁴⁹ I would very gladly do the latter, if the terms of

⁴⁸ A draft for five pounds on Sir John Lubbock, which Mrs. Becher did not use, forms the bottom part of this letter.

⁴⁹ Yates (*Recollections and Experiences*, II, 23) notes that before he wrote this letter, he read Thackeray's veiled allusion to him in number IX of *The Virginians* (chapters 33 to 36) for July, his implication being that by such a stroke Thackeray had closed all avenues to an apology. Chapter 35 of the novel begins with a paragraph on marriage, in which Thackeray develops the proposition that "there are few better ways of securing the faithfulness and admiration of the beautiful partners of our existence than a little judicious ill-treatment, a brisk dose of occasional violence as an alternative, and, for general and wholesome diet, a cooling but pretty constant neglect." "Women will be please with these remarks," he continues (*Works*, X, 293), "because they have such a taste for humour and understand irony; and I should not be surprised if young Grubstreet, who corresponds with three penny papers and describes the persons and conversation of gentlemen whom he meets at his 'clubs', will say 'I told you so! He advocates the thrashing of women! He has no nobility of soul! He has no heart!' Nor have I, my

Mr. Thackeray's letter to me were less offensive, but I conceive that if I made an "ample apology" to the writer of that communication, I should myself deserve that portion of it which you adopt in your second resolution, and should be "intolerable in a society of gentlemen." I therefore desire to appeal from your opinion to a General Meeting on the two questions:

Firstly, whether the cause between Mr. Thackeray and myself is a case to be submitted to you at all.

Secondly, whether if it be, Mr. Thackeray has any right to claim an apology from one whom he has so very arrogantly and coarsely addressed.

With great regret that I cannot defer to your decision, and with much esteem and consideration,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Edmund Yates.

To the Committee, Garrick Club.

1369. FROM CHARLES DICKENS
TO EDMUND YATES
6 JULY 1858

Published in part by Yates, *Recollections and Experiences*, II, 24-25. My text is taken from Dickens's *Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 28-29.

Gad's Hill Place
Tuesday Sixth July 1858.

My dear Edmund, — I have been thinking about the General Meeting.⁵⁰ My considerations and reconsiderations thereupon induce me to recommend you *not* to attend it in person.

eminent young Grubstreet! any more than you have ears." A glance at the caricature of Yates reproduced below (opposite p. 102) will explain Thackeray's reference to young Grubstreet's ears.

⁵⁰ Dickens summarizes the situation before the General Meeting, from the point of view of Yates's adherents, in a letter to William Howard Russell of July 7: "The Garrick is in convulsions. The attack is consequent on Thackeray's having complained to the committee (with an amazing want of dis-

Firstly, I think it pretty certain that Thackeray will stay away. If he should do so, it would be regarded as an act of delicacy in him; and your doing the reverse would be regarded as an act of *indelicacy* in you.

Secondly, though he should come; still your staying away, would shew well by the side of his presence.

Thirdly, it is very difficult indeed for any one, even though practised in public meetings and appearances, to keep quiet at such a discussion, the said "any one" being a principal therein.

Fourthly, you could do nothing if you were there but deny that you ever intended to abide by the Committee's decision. That, I will say for you, if necessary.

In case you should be staggered by this advice of mine, ask one or two men of experience and good judgment, whom you can trust, what they say. I am pretty sure that on careful consideration they will agree with me.

I suppose the meeting is not to take place so soon as next Saturday, seeing that I have not yet received any circular. — Ever Faithfully.

[Charles Dickens.]

cretion, as I think) of an article about him by Edmund Yates, in a thing called Town Talk. The article is in bad taste, no doubt, and would have been infinitely better left alone. But I conceive that the committee have nothing earthly, celestial, or infernal to do with it. Committee thinks otherwise, and calls on E. Y. to apologise or retire. E. Y. can't apologise (Thackeray having written him a letter which renders it impossible) and won't retire. Committee thereupon call a General Meeting, yet pending. Thackeray *thereupon*, by way of showing what an ill thing it is for writers to attack one another in print, denounces E. Y. (in Virginians, as Young Grubstreet). Frightful mess, muddle, complication, and botheration, ensue — which witch's broth is now in full boil." (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 31-32)

1370. TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE GARRICK CLUB
10 JULY 1858⁵¹

Hitherto unpublished.

Friday
Garrick Club. July 9. 1858.

To the Chairman of the General Meeting convoked for Saturday
July 10.

Sir

The debate, as between me and the writer of the newspaper-article w^h has given me offence, is over. I have expressed my opinion of his conduct in terms of at least no 'feigned bonhomme'. He has replied. The natural consequences have ensued, & our little Society has been plunged for weeks past in a turmoil, in w^h I regret sincerely I should have had any part.

Holding that no gentleman will be safe or intercourse possible if this practise of commenting upon motives or conversations be continued, I submitted my case to the Committee of the G. C. asking protection not only for myself but the whole society. I accept and am thankful for the Committee's opinion; and of course it is not I who appeal from their decision.

I presume the effect of tomorrows meeting will be to confirm or to reverse that sentence. In the latter case, it may be that the next gentleman attacked will be more patient than I have been; and, for the sake of a quiet life, will suffer, without complaint or protest, indignities put upon him, hints thrown out against his honor and sincerity, & liberties taken with his name. When mine, unfortunately for me, was selected for comment, more than one of my friends advised me to say nothing. My duty, perhaps my temper, caused me to follow a different course: but I shall grieve sincerely if my indignation at the injury w^h I conceive has

⁵¹ This letter was never sent, probably because Thackeray felt that any move toward self-justification would weaken his position.

been done me shall have superadded any unnecessary annoyance to the doubt, distrust, division, recrimination, & heart burning, w^h conduct like that of w^h I complain, must bring upon our or any Society!

Taking leave therefore of the case, and with a sincere wish for the prosperity of the Club, I am your most obdt Servt

W M Thackeray

I hear that an eminent Counsel is going to cover M^r Yates with his silk in the discussion next Saturday, whose eloquence no doubt will go to prove that M^r Yates's wrong towards me is very trifling, that I had no right to bring the matter before the Club, that I am thereby creating quarrels and dissensions in a friendly Society — nay I can fancy that a ready eloquence may show that I ought to apologize because M^r Yates has maligned me. I shall not be present at Saturdays discussion or vote at its conclusion, and hope to be out of the region of the little Club where such a storm has been raging.⁵²

⁵² In another manuscript in Mrs. Fuller's possession Thackeray has recast this postscript and set down his further reflections on the Yates affair, apparently to relieve his own mind and without thought of showing what he had written to anyone else:

"I hear that an eminent gentleman of 'the long robe' proposes to cover M^r Yates with his garment and I have little doubt that the eloquence of the learned gentleman will go to prove, that M^r Yates's wrong towards me is very trifling, that I had no right to bring the matter before the Club, that I am exaggerating a small offence, that I ought to have taken the trifling injury in silence, that I am creating dissensions and quarrels in an amiable society, and that possibly I ought to apologize to it because the gentleman maligned me.

"Except on one night at M^r Dickens's I do not remember that I ever met the gentleman out of the Garrick Club. Here I have talked with him in the most free & friendly manner A little while ago in his Character of 'The Lounger at the Clubs' he expressed an unfavorable opinion of one of my works Not caring a pennypiece about the criticism I did not allow it to alter our amicable relations. He may have thought on this occasion that it was impossible for any writer to keep his good humour after such a critic as the Lounger at the Clubs had expressed his dissatisfaction, & hence that I had adopted an affected 'bonhomie'— w^h is usually spelt with two ms, and under w^h I was concealing the anger 'rankling' within.

"Can he declare upon his honour that his observations upon my affected benevolence open cynicism and conversation *suave* but forbidding were founded



"THE SMILER WITH THE KNIFE" (YATES AND THACKERAY IN THE
GARRICK CLUB)

From a drawing by Thackeray

While Lady Ritchie owned this drawing, it was so framed as to cut off Yates's body entirely, and his forearm was erased in order to conceal the fact that there was more to the sketch. In this form it was exhibited as a "Drawing of Thackeray by himself" at the Victorian Exhibition of 1891-1892 at the New Gallery and reproduced in *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XV, xxxvii. Not till it passed to the present owner, Mr. Craig Wylie, was the frame removed and Yates revealed.



EDMUND YATES IN 1865

From a photograph

1371. FROM EDMUND YATES TO THE
GENERAL MEETING OF THE GARRICK CLUB
10 JULY 1858

My text is taken from Yates's *Mr. Thackeray*, p. 9.

Gentlemen, — You will this day have laid before you a correspondence between Mr. Thackeray and myself, certain Resolutions of your Committee affecting me, and such few representations as I have thought it becoming to offer to your Committee in writing.

I beg to assure you that although I consider Mr. Thackeray to have placed it out of my power to apologise to him, I am perfectly willing to apologise to you for any unpleasant feeling that I may

upon comments w^h he had heard out of doors and not in a hundred amicable conversations w^h we have had together in King St? Does a person who signs himself the Lounger at the Clubs and writes about gentlemen whom he meets every day, mean that he carefully gets his information out of the Clubs where he lounges? If so why Lounger? Suppose he were to bring out in one of his papers an article against a brother clerk of the Post Office whom he never met elsewhere with whom he was in the constant habit of laughing talking and shaking hands at the office. Would not the other gentlemen in the room say that it is all very well for Edmund to say this attack on Tom Bags or Bob Knox (I am only putting a hypothetic name) — resulted from remarks w^h Ned had gathered about Tom from other people out of doors — No no Edmund that wont do my boy — Its in this room you met Tom — and never out of it. He is an Islington or Pentonsville or Lambeth cove (the place is also hypothetical) you are amongst the swells, you were taken into the Garrick Club quite young out of regard for your father who was a favorite actor, a Doughty Street party. You go to the Garrick Club, you might as well swear it was there you heard about Tom and not here in Aldersgate St I say that if Yates maligned a brother clerk in one of his newspapers, the 'room' would have a right to be offended and that gents would have a right to say to one another, 'W^h one of us is that *terrific* Edmund a going to pitch into next? Move the venue from St. Mary Ate to Covent Garden and a society of gentlemen who are in the habit of meeting and talking freely together have a right to take cognizance of a libel written against one of them — I have a right to say It is here & here only that you have known me — It is here that I whom you accuse of dissimulation in conversation have treated you on terms of an entire unreserve and good-nature. I have feelings 'rankling' within have I? I am treacherous am I? What are you, who have shaken hands with me a score of times, and to whom I never said a word that was not good-natured?"

have awakened in the Club by the publication of the unfortunate article in question. I have no hesitation whatever in expressing to you (but not to Mr. Thackeray) my sincere regret that I ever wrote it, and put you to the pain and inconvenience of having to take it into your consideration.

Your obedient servant,
Edmund Yates.

1372.

TO N. CLAYTON

10 JULY 1858⁵³

Published in *The Critic*, XV (1889), 274.

Onslow Sq^e July 10. 1858.

Dear Sir

I think you have caught M^r Pendennis in a scrape from w^h there is no escaping — unless indeed we suppose that a large passing Cloud obscured the moon at the very moment when that little transaction between Pen and Fanny may have occurred. But did it? I assure you I am on that subject quite in the dark and your very faithful Serv^t

W M Thackeray

⁵³ Thackeray is replying to the following note, written from 9 Merrick Square on July 6:

"Sir

"I trust you will pardon a boy's mentioning what appears to him a trifling error in your novel 'Pendennis'.—

"In the 46th Chap.—(Pendennis at Vauxhall Gardens) I read, 'Poor Foker sate alone on one of the highest benches, his face *illuminated by the moon*', again a few lines further on Pendennis is saying 'look how beautiful the moon & stars are, and how calmly they shine', and almost immediately afterwards it is insinuated that Pen kissed Fanny for 'In the first place, it was dark; and nobody could see him',—now if the moon '*illuminated Foker's face*', if the moon & stars '*shone calmly*' how could it be 'dark' Pen kiss Fanny & 'nobody see him'?

"It may be said the sky became suddenly cloudy but such an explanation gives rather cloudy satisfaction. Should you think this note worthy acknowledgement, a line from you would give more pleasure than can be told by

Your respectful admirer
N. Clayton."

1373.

FROM ALEXANDER DOLAND
TO EDMUND YATES

17 JULY 1858

My text is taken from *Garrick Club: Report of the Committee*,⁵⁴ p. 2.

Sir,

I had the honor to forward you on Monday last a copy of the Resolutions⁵⁵ which were passed at the Special General Meeting held on the 10th instant.

⁵⁴ A rare three-page pamphlet issued shortly after July 20.

⁵⁵ These Resolutions, which were passed by a vote of seventy to forty-six, read as follows:

"1st. That it was competent to the Committee to enter into Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates.

"2nd. That it is the opinion of this Meeting that Mr. Thackeray's complaints against Mr. Yates are well founded.

"3rd. That the practice of publishing such articles, being reflections by one Member of the Club against any other, will be fatal to the comfort of the Club, and is intolerable in a society of Gentlemen.

"4th. That this Meeting is at once prepared to support the Committee in any step they may consider necessary for the suppression of this objectionable practice.

"5th. That this Meeting trusts that a most disagreeable duty may be spared it, by Mr. Yates making such ample apology to Mr. Thackeray as may result in the withdrawal of all unpleasant expressions used in reference to this question.

"6th. That with this expression of opinion the Meeting refers the whole question back to the Committee." (*Garrick Club: Report of the Committee*, p. 1)

The Committee's note proved no more effective than the Resolutions of the General Meeting in persuading Yates to apologize to Thackeray. At their meeting on July 20 the Committee accordingly had Yates's name erased from the Club's list of members. Dickens does not appear to have expected this step, though it is not easy to suggest what other action the Committee could have taken. He wrote to John Palgrave Simpson, another of Yates's supporters, on July 23: "The committee seems to me to have gone perfectly mad. I really never met with such ridiculous assumption and preposterous imbecility in my life before.

"Like Fox, I should 'boil with indignation' if I had not a vent. But I have. Upon my soul, when I picture them in that back-yard, conceiving that they shake the earth, I fall into fits of laughter. . . . — But this is not to the purpose concerning Edmund Yates. Before I received your note last night, I had

I am directed by the Committee to express to you their surprise that you have not noticed this communication by complying with either of the Requisitions of the General Meeting.

Bound, as the Committee feel themselves, to carry out with the least possible delay the strongly expressed feeling and Resolutions of the General Meeting, they are still unwilling to adopt the extreme measure if they can possibly avoid so doing; and although quite aware that the sense of the Meeting in reference to the apology in question was, that it should not only be ample but immediate, they look to the fact that no exact time is specified within which it must be made.

They adjourn this day's Meeting to Tuesday, the 20th instant, at Three o'Clock, for their final decision, trusting that the Club will pardon, for the sake of the motive, what might, strictly speaking, be considered a blameable tardiness.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Garrick Club, Your most obedient and very humble Servant,
17th July, 1858. Alexander Doland,
To Edmund H. Yates, Esq. Secretary.

recommended him to ascertain, from good sound legal authority, the exact state of the legality of the question.

"This he is now doing." (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 33)

Yates learned from his counsel that he had not yet been legally ejected from the Club. It was necessary that he get himself forcibly removed from its premises, and this he succeeded in doing on his second attempt. Since the London season was over and Dickens was away on a reading tour, no further action was deemed advisable for several months. (*Recollections and Experiences*, II, 28-30) Yates did not institute his suit to try the right of the Committee to drop him from the Club until December 5, when a writ was served on Doland, the Club's secretary.

1374.

TO BRADBURY AND EVANS

25 JULY 1858

Address: Mess^{rs} Bradbury & Evans | 11 Bouverie St. Fleet Street — | London |
England. Postmarks: BERNE 27 JUL 1858, LONDON JY 30. Hitherto
 unpublished.

Berne Sunday 25 July

These pooty little cuts, my worthy friends,
 Titmarsh to the engraver recommends.

Send proofs directly to Lucerne.

1375.

FROM FRANK FLADGATE

27 JULY 1858

Address: à Monsieur W. M. Thackeray | Poste Restante | Lucerne. *Postmarks:*
 27 JY 1858, LUZERN 30 JUL. Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Thackeray,

Finding from your second letter that you have not yet received the information which the paper ⁵⁶ upon which I write these few lines contains, I send it at once to you.

The *matter* has long since ceased as between you and the ex-member — It became a question between *him* and the *Club* only — and it is settled — Some one wrote to me the other day “Y’s conduct has been very un Y’s. I can add nothing to all this, save my best regards to you and to your ‘belongings’— health & happiness.

your sincere Friend,
 Frank Fladgate.

G. C.

27th July 1858

⁵⁶ A copy of *Garrick Club: Correspondence*. See above, No. 1359, note 37.

1376.

TO ?

18 AUGUST 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
August 18.

D^r Sir

— I have to acknowledge your kind note w^h I just found next door last night on my return from Switzerland. Since you wrote, you no doubt have heard that the difference between me & the author of the article in 'Town Talk' has come to an issue — I never once thought of attributing the article to *you*: and am sorry that you should have been subject to misrepresentation by newspaper-writers, as *well* as

Your *obliged* Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

Of course I've not seen the O. C's letter in the papers you allude to, & hear of ever so many others who seem equally well informed.

1377.

TO THE BAXTERS

25 AUGUST 1858

Published in part, *American Family*, pp. 164-167.

36 Onslow Sq^e August 25.

I wonder whether I shall have the energy to get through this sheet — this sheet? this page. But try we wool though I owe ever so many people letters before you Madam, and this is safe to be dreadfully stupid. Dont you see that I cant even spell? — I am constantly unwell now — a fit of spasms — then get well in about 5 days; then 5 days grumbling and thinking of my work; then 14 days work and spasms da capo — and what a horribly stupid story I am writing! Dont tell me. I know better than any of you. No incident, no character no go left in this dreary old expiring

carcass — There Miss Sally — you howl on your sea-shore and I will roar from mine. Come let us placidly take leave of our friends (not telling them anything I mean) go each to the top of a rock, and jump over and end our troubleoubleoubles in the midst of the sad sea waves' bubbleublubbles — I am serious — You fancy I am joking. I tell you I am done, & I don't care. My dear it is all liver. We have been away on a (for the girls) jolly little Swiss tourkin of 5 weeks and I find the kind letters among the heap on my return home. As for my dear M^r Baxters, it steps silently into the room, and soothes me like a sweet refreshing calming anodyne — Fact is I'm quite beat and unwell and can scarce see the paper on w^h I write.

Is Libbies teapot ever going? Yes Andrew Arcedeckne Esq^e (the original of M^r Foker ⁵⁷ dont say so though) will take it over in a foo days. It has got black and is so small & shabby that I am ashamed to send it. But O my dear Libbie — Times are dark and will be dark so dark that no man shall be able to work ⁵⁸— Make haste and get married Lucy my dear, if you want a sillivyer tea pot or you will have none from your unfortunate W. M. T. My dear kind mothers heart, I am so glad it is elated at Wyly's getting such honours. When he comes to England he will talk to 2 orphans in a shabby genteel house about their maniac father. Nobody in the least is coming to marry them — and nobody I am sure is wanted, by their selfish parent — Annys happiness makes almost me happy — *unblases* me when I am under the influence over it — When I am lying up stairs in bed you know dreadfully ill with those spasms, and yet secretly quite contented and easy, I say to myself 'Good God what a good girl that is! Amen.

I have nothing to tell you as usual — I went away having got into trouble with a young fellow who told lies of me in a newspaper, w^h I was obliged to notice as we are acquaintances, and meet together at a little Club ⁵⁹ — You have read something about

⁵⁷ See above, No. 736.

⁵⁸ *St. John*, 9, 4.

⁵⁹ That the Yates affair was still on Thackeray's mind is shown by a sentence in number XI of *The Virginians* (chapters 41 to 44) for September: "there

it in the papers I daresay — The little papers are still going on abusing me about it I hear — and dont care as I never read one. The public does not care about the story nor about the Virginians nor I about either — nor do I know what there is in these 3 pages, nor whether I shall send them. Yes I think I shall send them because I can pay the post you know, and because once and away I like to growl out that I love you ever so many of you very sincerely — I think taraxacum might do something for Sally who is still (comparatively) young. If I wanted to see the children I would say so: but I don't. I suppose for form's sake I must send my love to them though. There. Bless you bless you my little dears. Take em away Nurse. Wowwowow Rawwawwaw. Chickaly Chickaly Chickaly. O zoo pooty little darlings — O you unfeeling Broo-oooot! says Aunt Lucy walking out of the room quite haughty. Well — he is really unwell that is the fact Grandmamma sayes. I think I'm ever so little better now I am got to the end of this absurd paper. God bless you all — Papa and the boys and the gals and Uncle Oliver says

Your Affte
W M T.

1378.

TO LADY STANLEY
20-23 SEPTEMBER 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

Hotel Bristol. Place Vendome.
Paris.

Tuesday. 20 Sep^r

My dear Lady Stanley

You must not think me more ungrateful than the generality of mankind for not having answered your kind note w^h I found at

is a *modus in rebus*: there are certain lines which must be drawn: and I am only half pleased, for my part, when Bob Bowstreet, whose connection with letters is through Policeman X and Y, and Tom Garbage, who is an esteemed contributor to the *Kennel Miscellany*, propose to join fellowship as brother literary men, slap me on the back, and call me old boy, or by my Christian name" (*Works*, X, 359).

home 6 weeks ago on my return from Switzerland. Five of those weeks were spent in being perpetually ill — I don't know what is the matter with Brompton in September but it's the most deadly place to me at that time and I think at all — dismal reflection for a man who has bought a house and made it pretty and comfortable. When you said Alderley was damp I shuddered — it's in the damp places that my precious health suffers most — whereas the air here is like perpetual Champagne. I am living in this hotel in boy, my daughters hard by with their G mother who is delighted to have them: and I have done more work in a week than I do in 2 months at home.⁶⁰ How is it I come to write to you? D'abord there was your unanswered letter on my conscience and that very curious packet of bills from White's w^h your husband sent me — most characteristic singular & pleasant they are — and then a fellow was smoking in my room last night (we had been to dine with Sir Fitzroy & Lady Kelly ⁶¹ if you please, about whom there is some mystery) — I say Fletcher Norton ⁶² was a smoking here last night,

⁶⁰ John Pendleton Kennedy, in Paris on his second visit to Europe, wrote on September 26, 1858: "Thackeray calls to see me, and sits for an hour or two. He is not looking well. He tells me he has need of my assistance with his Virginians,— and says Heaven has sent me to his aid. He wants to get his hero from Fort Duquesne, where he is confined as a prisoner after Braddock's defeat, and to bring him to the coast to embark for England. 'Now you know all that ground,' he says to me, 'and I want you to write a chapter for me to describe how he got off and what travel he made.' He insists that I shall do it. I give him a doubtful promise to do it if I can find time in the thousand engagements that now press upon me on the eve of our leaving Paris." (Tuckerman, *Kennedy*, p. 296) Though the narrative of George Warrington's escape from Fort Duquesne in chapter 52 of *The Virginians* (the last chapter of number XIII for November) is patently by Thackeray, it may be based in part on Kennedy's suggestions. See Professor Jay B. Hubbell's "Thackeray and Virginia," *Virginia Quarterly Review*, III (1927), 76-86.

⁶¹ Sir Fitzroy Kelly (1796-1880), who had married Ada Cunningham in 1856, was at this time Attorney-General and M. P. for East Suffolk. He remained in parliament until 1866 when he became Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, a post which he retained for the remainder of his life.

⁶² Fletcher Cavendish Norton (1829-1859), oldest son of Mrs. Caroline Norton, became First Paid Attaché at the English Embassy in Paris on February 9. Lady Stanley's oldest son, the Hon. Henry Edward John Stanley (1827-1903), later (1869) third Baron Stanley of Alderley, was also in the diplomatic service. (*Foreign Office List*, 1859)

and praising Henry very cordially for talents [honesty and many good qualities de coeur et d'esprit. Surely a mother likes to know that her son has friends who speak well of him I thought, and on this hint sent off my little letter to Alderley

Yes: but it was begun 4 days ago from the mark [only it is wrote this morning — at 'talents' I was interrupted had to go away to dine in the country with old & young folks next day was knocked over by one of my attacks of illness ⁶³ (dry air or moist it seems

⁶³ "Returning to Paris, after a short tour in Switzerland and North Italy," writes William Allingham at about this time, "I found Thackeray in the Hotel Bristol with his two daughters. He is not well — often in bed till mid-day or later — struggling with [*The Virginians*], but in the evening recovering himself.

"I told him I had been with the Brownings (who were then in Paris staying in the Rue Castiglioni, No. 6).

" 'Browning was here this morning,' Thackeray said, 'what spirits he has — almost too much for me in my weak state. He almost blew me out of bed!'

" 'A wonderful fellow, indeed!'

" 'Yes, and he doesn't drink wine.'

" 'He's already screwed up to concert pitch.'

" 'Far above it. But I can't manage his poetry. What do you say?'

" (I spoke highly of it).

" 'Well, you see, I want poetry to be musical, to run sweetly.'

" 'So do I'—

" 'Then that *does* for your friend B.!' "

"I spoke of Browning's other qualities so splendid as to make him, as it were, a law in himself. But Thackeray only smiled and declined further discussion.

" 'He has a good belief in himself, at all events. I suppose he doesn't care whether people praise him or not.'

" 'I think he does, very much.'

" 'O does he? Then I'll say something about him in a number.'

"Thackeray took me to dine with him in the Palais Royal. He noticed with quiet enjoyment every little incident — beginning with the flourish with which our waiter set down the dishes of Ostend oysters. After tasting his wine Thackeray said, looking at me solemnly through his large spectacles, 'One's first glass of wine in the day is a great event.'

"That dinner was delightful. He talked to me with as much ease and familiarity as if I had been a favourite nephew.

"After dinner Thackeray proposed that we should go to the Palais Royal Theatre, but on issuing forth he changed his mind, and said we would call up Father Prout. . . .

"In a narrow street at the back of the Palais Royal, in a large lowish room on the ground floor, we found the learned and witty Padre, loosely arrayed, reclining in front of a book and a bottle of Burgundy. He greeted us well,

to be all the same) Bon Dieu was ever a man so buffeted? and am only today sur pied again. Worse still, my dear old Mother, coming to see her son in his illness and walking for the first time these many months, was knocked down by some gamins close to her own door, has broken a bone in the hip somewhere and is to be lame for life. So in decrepitude and ill health, and straitened circumstances ends one who began beautiful & brilliant with a world of admirers round about her — Of these all are gone except one her faithful old husband on whose affection and fidelity I look with more admiration than on H. E. Aimable Jacques Duke of Malakoff or any Grandee I ever set eyes on. And between ourselves, (this is a little bit of sentiment such as my cynical spirit sometimes loves to indulge in) it was worth being ill to have 2 such nurses as my girls to take care of me. How good they were how watchful silent & tender! Here they come in new dresses * for w^h I know who will pay: and he sends very kind greetings to all of you and is

Yours dear Lady Stanley very sincerely
W M Thackeray.

* They have left the elders and taken up again with their papa.

but in a low voice and said, 'Evening boys, there's a young chap asleep there in the corner.' And in a kind of recess we noted something like bed-clothes. Thackeray was anxious to know who this might be, and Prout explained that it was a young Paddy from Cork or thereabouts, who had been on a lark in Paris and spent his money. Prout found him 'hard up,' and knowing something of his friends in Ireland had taken him in to board and lodge, pending the arrival of succour.

"This piece of humanity was much to Thackeray's taste, as you may suppose. Thackeray said the Burgundy was 'too strong', and had brandy and water instead.

"We talked among other things of Dickens. I said how much a story of Dickens might be improved by a man of good taste with a pencil in hand, by merely scoring out this and that.

"Says Thackeray (with an Irish brogue), 'Young man, your threadin' on the tail o' me coat!'

"I did not understand at first.

"'What you've just said applied very much to your humble servant's things.' " (*William Allingham: A Diary*, ed. H. Allingham and D. Radford, London, 1907, pp. 76-78)

1379. TO PATRICK KENNEDY ⁶⁴
18 OCTOBER 1858

Address: The Author of | 'Legends of Mount Leinster' | Kennedy's Library.
Angelsea St. | Dublin. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^f
Monday. October 18.

My dear Sir

I shall gladly accept the Xtian Hero ⁶⁵ from you, and wish your shop were nearer that I might poke about among your old books. I am living 100 years ago at this present moment and read in scores and scores of old volumes so as to make me au courant with the times.

I wish I could help you with your Wexford Story ⁶⁶— but I *daren't* recommend any more books to any publishers here of my acquaintance. I have wearied them quite out with applications— and have almost every day of my life to acknowledge my inability to help some aspirant who sends me his MS.

Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1380. TO DR. JOHN BROWN
4-10 NOVEMBER 1858

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, X, xli-xlii. My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, pp. 327-330.

Hôtel des 2 Mondes, Rue d'Antin,
Paris, November 4.

My dear Dr. John— Your kind note has followed me hither. I have many a time thought of you and of writing to you, but it's the old story, work, dinner, and *da capo*. I have nothing spe-

⁶⁴ A Dublin bookseller (1801-1873), who had published his first book, *Legends of Mount Leinster* (1855), under the pseudonym of Harry Whitney.

⁶⁵ Sir Richard Steele's tract, which appeared in 1701.

⁶⁶ Possibly *The Banks of the Boro*; a chronicle of the county of Wexford (1867). Kennedy was a Wexford man.

cially cheerful to say about myself and don't like *The Virginians* half as much as you do. Very good writing, but it ought to have been at its present stage of the story at No. X.⁶⁷ I dawdled fatally between V. and X; . . . I am old, or I am tired, or some other reason. All remains yet doubtful about my poor mother. She has had more than six weeks bed, but we don't know yet whether the fracture is to join or what is quite the nature of it. Poor dear, it was in returning from coming to see me that some boys ran against her near her own door and occasioned the mishap. She bears it wonderfully; her health has rather improved, and neither she nor her husband quite know how serious the accident is. I send no condolences about the departure of your good old Father.⁶⁸ He was ready I suppose, and had his passport made out for his Journey. Next comes our little turn to pack up and depart. To stay is well enough, but shall we be very sorry to go? What more is there in life that we haven't tried? What that we have tried is so very much worth repetition or endurance? I have just come from a beefsteak and potatoes 1 f., a bottle of Claret 5 f., both excellent of their kind, but we can part from them without a very severe pang, and *nota* that we shall get no greater pleasures than these from this to the end of our days. What is a greater pleasure? Gratified ambition? accumulation of money? What? Fruition of some sort of desire perhaps; when one is twenty, yes, but at 47 Venus may rise from the sea, and I for one should hardly put on my spectacles to have a look. Here I am snarling away on the old *poco curante* theme. How good-natured you are not to be tired of me.

The girls and I have been to Versailles to-day. We rather liked it. They went to my mother afterwards, I to solitude and beefsteak before mentioned . . . Have never heard Dickens,⁶⁹ but hope

⁶⁷ For August, chapters 37 to 40. Thackeray was currently at work on number XIV for December, chapters 53 to 56. Number V included chapters 17 to 20.

⁶⁸ Dr. John Brown the elder died on October 13, 1858 (*Dr. John Brown*, p. 122).

⁶⁹ Dickens had given a series of readings from his books in Edinburgh between September 27 and 30 (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 59).

and believe he will make a great bit of money for the 8 children.

O how cold my back is! How cold the weather is! How stupid the letter is! How much better it would be to be sitting by the fire reading that stupid book than writing this stupid note! From the tone of this note don't you think I had better take a grain of blue pill to-night? Good-night, Doctor; good-night, Madam; good-night, children.

Wednesday Morning. — But *is* Miss Mackenzie going to marry Milor? Bath House will be restored to us in that case. Since her death I have never been within the door.⁷⁰ Have been sleeping in the most innocent manner for 10 hours; have got such beautiful apartments here, am living at an awful expense, though. £1 a day for rooms is nothing here. It is the dearest capital in Europe. How respectable folks in your Athens would tremble at the extravagance here! Come, there is no more room in the paper.

P.S. — My mother goes on remarkably well, so well that I think I may soon go home.

1381.

FROM CHARLES DICKENS

24 NOVEMBER 1858

My text is taken from Yates's *Mr. Thackeray*, p. 13.

Tavistock House, Tavistock-square, London, W. C.

Wednesday, 24th November, 1858.

My Dear Thackeray, — Without a word of prelude, I wish this note to revert to a subject on which I said six words to you at the Athenæum when I last saw you.

Coming home from my country work, I find Mr. Edwin James's⁷¹ opinion taken on this painful question of the Garrick

⁷⁰ Thackeray's friend the first Lady Ashburton had died on May 4, 1857. Lord Ashburton married Louisa Mackenzie, who had inherited the Mackenzie estate of nearly 30,000 acres in county Ross, on November 17, 1858.

⁷¹ Edwin John James (1812–1882), a very successful barrister though even at this time of sinister reputation. He was disbarred three years later for malpractice extending back to 1853. When he departed for New York in July, 1861, his liabilities were said to exceed £100,000. (*Annual Register*, 1862,

and Mr. Edmund Yates. I find it strong on the illegality of the Garrick proceeding. Not to complicate this note or give it a formal appearance, I forbear from copying the opinion; but I have asked to see it, and I have it, and I want to make no secret from you of a word of it.

I find Mr. Edwin James retained on the one side; I hear and read of the Attorney-General⁷² being retained on the other. Let me, in this state of things, ask you a plain question.

Can any conference be held between me, as representing Mr. Yates, and an appointed friend of yours, as representing you, with the hope and purpose of some quiet accomodation of this deplorable matter, which will satisfy the feelings of all concerned?

It is right that, in putting this to you, I should tell you that Mr. Yates, when you first wrote to him, brought your letter to me. He had recently done me a manly service I can never forget, in some private distress of mine (generally within your knowledge),⁷³ and he naturally thought of me as his friend in an emergency. I told him that his article was not to be defended; but I confirmed him in his opinion it was not reasonably possible for him to set right what was amiss, on the receipt of a letter couched in the very strong terms you had employed. When you appealed to the Garrick Committee and they called their General Meeting, I said at that meeting that you and I had been on good terms for many years, and that I was very sorry to find myself opposed to you; but that I was clear that the Committee had nothing on earth to do with it, and that in the strength of my conviction I should go against them.

If this mediation that I have suggested can take place, I shall be heartily glad to do my best in it — and God knows in no hostile spirit towards any one, least of all to you. If it cannot take place, the

pp. 140–143) Thackeray appears to have had James's *débâcle* in mind when he described the later phases of Dr. Firmin's career in *Philip*.

⁷² Sir Fitzroy Kelly.

⁷³ This can only be a reference to Dickens's intimacy with Miss Ternan. According to Mr. Wright (*Life of Charles Dickens*, p. 282) Yates was one of the few persons who knew the details of this story.

thing is at least no worse than it was; and you will burn this letter, and I will burn your answer.

Yours faithfully,
Charles Dickens.

W. M. Thackeray, Esq.

1382.

TO CHARLES DICKENS

26 NOVEMBER 1858

My text is taken from Yates's *Mr. Thackeray*, p. 14.

36, Onslow-square, 26th November, 1858.

Dear Dickens, — I grieve to gather from your letter that you were Mr. Yates's adviser in the dispute between me and him. His letter was the cause of my appeal to the Garrick Club for protection from insults against which I had no other remedy.

I placed my grievance before the Committee of the Club as the only place where I have been accustomed to meet Mr. Yates. They gave me their opinion of his conduct and of the reparation which lay in his power. Not satisfied with their sentence, Mr. Yates called for a General Meeting; and, the meeting which he had called having declared against him, he declines the jurisdiction which he had asked for, and says he will have recourse to lawyers.

You say that Mr. Edwin James is strongly of opinion that the conduct of the Club is illegal. On this point I can give no sort of judgment: nor can I conceive that the Club will be frightened, by the opinion of any lawyer, out of their own sense of the justice and honour which ought to obtain among gentlemen.

Ever since I submitted my case to the Club, I have had, and can have, no part in the dispute. It is for them to judge if any reconciliation is possible with your friend. I subjoin the copy of a letter which I wrote to the Committee, and refer you to them for the issue.

Yours, &c.,⁷⁴
W. M. Thackeray.⁷⁵

C. Dickens, Esq.

⁷⁴ Protesting against Forster's description of Dickens's difference with

1383. TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE
GARRICK CLUB
28 NOVEMBER 1858

Published by Yates, *Mr. Thackeray*, p. 14. My text is taken from a draft in Thackeray's hand owned by Mrs. Fuller.

36 Onslow Sq^e November 28. 1858.

Gentlemen

I have today received a communication from M^r Charles Dickens relative to the dispute w^h has been so long pending, in w^h he says

'Can any conference be held between me as representing M^r Yates, and any appointed friend of yours as representing you, in the hope and purpose of some quiet accommodation of this deplorable matter, w^h will satisfy the feelings of all parties?'

I have written to M^r Dickens to say that since the commencement of this business I have placed myself entirely in the hands of the

Thackeray as an "estrangement . . . hardly now worth mention even in a note" (*Life of Dickens*, ed. Ley, p. 697), Yates writes that "at the time no one was more energetically offended with Thackeray than John Forster himself. I perfectly well remember his rage when Dickens showed him the letter of 26th November, and how he burst out with 'He be damned, with his "yours, &c."!' " (*Recollections and Experiences* II, 36)

⁷⁵ To a first draft of this letter in the possession of Mrs. Fuller Thackeray has added the following comments: "On the 28 November I wrote to the Committee of the G. C. enclosing the paragraph A in M^r Dickens's letter and saying that if they could come to a pacific ending no one would be more glad than myself.

"The Committee did not meet till the ensuing Saturday Dec^r 5, and on that day M^r Yates served a Writ on the Secretary of the Club, & this article appeared in the *Illustrated Times*.

" 'THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER
THE "HISTRIONIC BARONET."

"My personal experience of baronets, limited though it be, does not inculcate a belief in them as a class. Perhaps I have not been fortunate, but of the half-dozen with whom I have been brought into contact, one is a cynic, one a stupid nincompoop, one a spiteful fool, one an antiquated fogey, one a harmless chip-in-porridge, and only one a real gentleman. Two of these live on their estates, two on the reputation of their ancestors, one by bedabbling

Committee of the Garrick, and am still, as ever, prepared to abide by any decision at w^h they may arrive on the subject. I conceive I cannot, if I would, make the dispute once more personal, or remove it out of the Court to w^h I submitted it for arbitration.

If you can devise any peaceful means for ending it, No one will be better pleased than,

Your obliged faithful Ser^t

W M Thackeray.

The Committee of the Garrick Club.

1384. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

4 DECEMBER 1858

Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday. Dec^r 4.

Young women. You may depend on it your dear Papa is not very comfortable in mind nor pens nor paper when he begins at

his "bloody hand" in coal dust and retailing Yorkshire "slack" to London merchants, and one by his wits — and, heaven knows, he has but a slight subsistence! My estimate of the order was not heightened by witnessing the performance of Sir William Don, on Monday evening, at the Haymarket. This gentleman, who stands six feet and a-half in height, relies apparently upon his grotesque appearance, and his very comic face, for his success as an actor. All that man can do in the way of gagging and fun-forcing he did, and he certainly succeeded in "hammering a hoarse laugh from a coarse throng;" but of the lights and shades of acting, of the accurate representation of character, he has no more idea than Mr. M. F. Tupper has of poetry, or than I have of what the editor of the "Musical World" means by the word "perfunctory". Holding the mirror up to nature is all very well; but what is the result when, from physical conformation, you are compelled to hold the mirror so high above nature's head that she cannot get a glimpse at herself, or but sees herself in a grotesque and distorted medium? No, no! brevity is the soul of wit, and in Sir William Don's case, certainly the exception does *not* prove the rule!"

In this clipping Yates is of course guilty of the same offence that gave rise to Thackeray's initial protest to the Committee of the Garrick Club. His information about most of the "half-dozen" Baronets whom he describes must have come chiefly from conversations within the Club's walls. No doubt Sir William Henry Don (1828-1862), seventh Baronet, who in 1850 sold his estates to pay his creditors and went on the stage, was also a member of the Club.

you in this hand writing.⁷⁶ He got up this morning at 7 quite cheerfully and well, and lighting the candle on the mantel-piece saw before him



'The pills immediately the Draught two hours after the pills.' Like a good boy he took the pills instantly at 7. the Draught at 9. It was Rhubarb, w^h your dear Father hates like poison. But que voulez vous? He was committed already by having swallowed the pill, dont you see? It is now 12 o'clock He is nauseated, uncomfortable all over, with the dreadful idea that the pill will have its effect about 5 o'clock, and at 7 he is to be at dinner at M^r Heath's at Richmond. Fancy having to get up abruptly, and leave the table! Yesterday I only got 5 letters asking me for money. One from poor Eyre 5£: one from M^{rs} Beckwith 5£: and then when I was settling to work comes your Uncle Arthur who informs me that he is about to be arrested for a bill of 235£ — w^h I shall end by paying. Isn't it jolly?

The Yates and Thackeray affair still roars on bravely. Three articles this week. Two against me and accusing me of persecuting Yates — private letter from Higgins to tell me that I am utterly in the wrong, that Yates's article *wasn't* malicious, and that I had best beware of Edwin James and the scarifying w^h I shall get in the Witness box. Having done me some services, H takes them out in the most confounded ill-conditioned letters, with a sort of savage mischief I suppose in thinking that I can't resent them.

I begin to like M^{rs} Martin ⁷⁷ more and more. There's a very

⁷⁶ This letter is written in Thackeray's slanting hand.

⁷⁷ The former Helena Saville Faucit (1817–1898), one of the most famous actresses of her time, who had married Theodore Martin (1816–1909), K. C. B. (1880), in 1851. While Thackeray lived in Brompton, the Martins were his near neighbors at 31 Onslow Square. "All our recollections of Thackeray were delightful," writes Sir Theodore (*Helena Faucit Lady Martin*, Edinburgh and London, 1900, p. 258). "He used to pay us long visits at

genuine sweetness and kindness about her. Sorry I cant go and dine there tomorrow. Engaged to the Procters. Adelaide going to be married:⁷⁸ it was time: she has lost her front tooth *my* tooth. but looks very much happier & comfortabler. Haven't seen JOB nor my German correspondent. Dined at Forster's with Elwyn. Forster was admirably grotesque and absurd. I was glad to get out of the house without touching on the Dickens affair. John Brown writes from Edinburgh to day, that C D is a miscreant. He is 1/2 mad about his domestic affairs, and tother 1/2 mad with arrogance and vanity. O M^r Haden!⁷⁹ M^r Haden! y, y, did you give me that confounded rewarb?

Yesterday I gave Shirley Brooks dinner at the Reform Club Que c'etoit une curiosité a le voir. Yesterday M^r Yates presented himself at the Garrick Club for the purpose of being again turned out.⁸⁰ Fladgate is sublime on the great question. Poor M^{rs} Russell is ill with erisypelas. Alice Corkran has the typhus fever: but is going on pretty well. Did you see w^m Conyngham's nice girl is dead of dyphtheria? My God what a blow! And Macready's eldest son is come home to England doomed to die. Here's a merry letter I am writing to you!

Here I break off to write a line to poor W. Coningham, and no

breakfast, and then he talked with frankness and unreserve, more like those of a large-hearted boy than of a man who had seen life in so many phases, many of them of a kind to induce the *pensieri stretti*, for which strangers thought he was peculiar. His nature was obviously one that yearned for sympathy. It was full of tenderness, and showed it, where he was sure that it would be understood. In fact, of all men I have known he was the most tender-hearted; in this respect, indeed, almost womanly. He always showed a marked respect for my wife's opinion in all matters of literature and art. What he thought of her we learned from a note which came into my hands many years after his death. It was addressed to Lady Knighton, inviting her to meet the well-known Helen Faucit at dinner, in which he spoke of her as 'one of the sweetest women in Christendom.'" Martin was the author with Aytoun of *The Bon Gaultier Ballads* (1842-1844), and he later wrote the official *Life of the Prince Consort* (1875-1880).

⁷⁸ Miss Procter never married.

⁷⁹ Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), knighted (1894), a prominent London surgeon, now remembered chiefly for his etchings.

⁸⁰ See above, No. 1373, note 55.

1858

TO LADY MORGAN

123

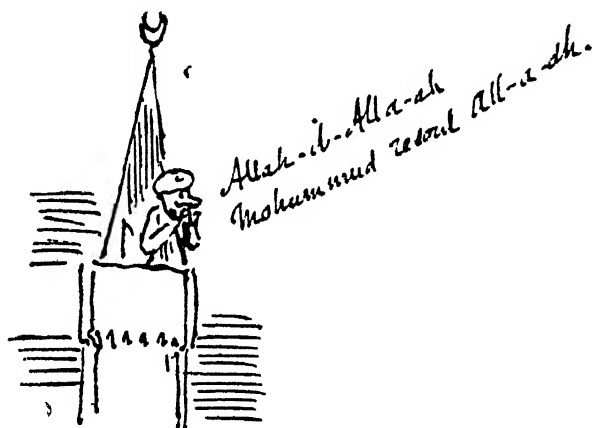
XV⁸¹ of the Virginians if you please? Come Come Sir it is pouring with rain Had you not best set to work? — I was afraid Granny's news was too good to be true. How philosophical it is to say the months are long but that they pass! G. B. all.

W M T.

1385.

TO LADY MORGAN
DECEMBER 1858 ?

Hitherto unpublished.



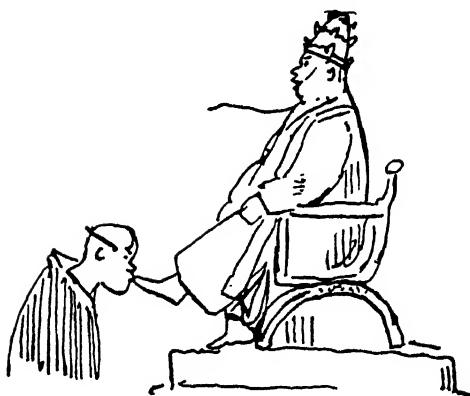
My dear Lady Morgan. I send you a little present of small beer for this Christmas drinking: and, just on the point of departure for Paris, wish your ladyship a happy New Year.

Believe me dear Lady Morgan

Yours ever

Nicholas. Cardinal.

⁸¹ For January, chapters 57 to 60.



1386.

TO CAPTAIN ATKINSON⁸²
27 DECEMBER 1858

Published in facsimile, *The Leisure Hour*, 1883, p. 561.

Hotel Bristol. Place Vendome.
December 27. 1858.

My dear Captain Atkinson

I received your beautiful book⁸³ whilst I was in London, but was in such a state of bewilderment and botheration with my own little volume that I hadn't heart to perform the proper duties of gratitude and society and thank you for your present and dedication. It was very interesting to me to see what my native country is like now — I have far off visions of great saloons and people dancing in them, enormous idols & fireworks, rides on elephants or in gigs, and fogs clearing away and pagodas appearing over the trees, yellow rivers and budgerows &c — I'm always interested about the place, and your sketches came to me as very welcome, besides being exceedingly pretty cheerful & lively. I hope the book will succeed: it must have been an awful bill to pay.

⁸² George Francklin Atkinson (1822–1859), who served in the East India Company's army from 1841 till his death and published several volumes of sketches from Indian life (*Leisure Hour*, 1883, p. 560).

⁸³ *Curry and Rice, on forty plates; or, the ingredients of social life at our station in India* (1858), which is dedicated to Thackeray.

As for that little hint about Printing House Square, I know the Editors and most of the writers; and, knowing, never think of asking a favor for myself or any mortal man. They are awful and inscrutable, and a request for a notice might bring a slasher down upon you, such as I once had in the Times for one of my own books (*Esmond*) of w^h the sale was absolutely stopped by a Times article.⁸⁴ I wish your volume every success, and thank you for putting my name on its first page.

Ever yours

W M Thackeray.

1387.

TO ROBERT CHAMBERS

27 DECEMBER 1858

Published in *Chambers's Journal*, Sixth Series, XIV (1897), 710. My text is taken from Lady Priestley's *The Story of a Lifetime* (London, 1908), pp. 70-71.

Paris, December 28th, 1858.

My Dear Chambers,

Will you send the above scrap to Mr. Payn,⁸⁵ as I don't remember where he lives? and, in asking you to perform this kind office for me, will you permit me to seize the opportunity afforded me of expressing to you, Mrs. Chambers, and your somewhat numerous family, my wish that you may enjoy many happy recurrences of a season which Christians venerate, but which you do not, I believe, acknowledge in Scotland, and the assurance of the profound consideration with which I have the honour to be, Sir, Madam, and your kind, merry, pretty young ladies,

Your faithful servant,

W. M. T.

⁸⁴ See above, No. 935, note 25.

⁸⁵ James Payn (1830-1898), the novelist, a regular contributor to *Chambers's Journal*.

1388.

TO MADAME LE VERT

1858? ⁸⁶

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 292.

Wednesday.

My dear Madame Le Vert, — I am very sorry that I am engaged on Thursday evening. I am only just returned from Paris, or I should have acknowledged your invitation sooner.

Very faithfully yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

1389.

TO SIR HENRY KNIGHT STORKS ¹

22 JANUARY 1859

Address: Major General Sir H Storks &c | War Office | Pall Mall. *Postmark:* LONDON JA 22 59. My text is taken from a facsimile in Henry Sayre Van Duzer's *A Thackeray Library* (New York, 1919), opposite p. 133.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.
Saturday

My dear Stork

Can you dine here tomorrow at 7. No party: but I want you very much to give me some military information for the Virginians.²

Yours ever
The Author.

⁸⁶ General Wilson gives this year as the date without stating his authority. Thackeray made several trips to Paris during 1858.

¹ Storks (1811–1874) was made a K. C. B. in 1857 but according to *The Dictionary of National Biography* did not become a Major-General until 1862.

² Number XVI for February, chapters 61 to 63.

1390. FROM ANNE THACKERAY TO
DR. JOHN BROWN
26 JANUARY 1859

My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, pp. 330-331.

36 Onslow Square, January 26

Dear Dr. Brown — You who have written so many kind letters to the above address about my father and about his books must let my father's daughter try and tell you all the pleasure your book³ has given there.

Coming back from Paris the other day and going my rounds over the house, I thought I saw a new face smiling freshly down from among all the old and seedy ones on Papa's book-shelf. And when I pulled it out I found it was Dr. John Brown I was saying how d'ye do to, whose handwriting we know so well.

I thought it would be very easy when I began my note to tell you how delightful I have found that handwriting in print, and how it seems to say all the things one has been looking about for, and to say them so charmingly and truthfully that it is the greatest pleasure to listen, only now I begin to feel rather foolish and inclined to stammer, and don't quite know how to go on. But though I stop now talking, it is not that I am going to leave off reading I assure you, and the still fresh cover is rapidly getting shabby, as it travels about after me up and down stairs.

We are all very cheerful and thankful to be at home and together again. Papa finished his No. last night about 2 1/2 o'clock. To-day we have been out on our monthly lark, and he felt so fresh and eager for work that the lark was cut rather short so that he might rush into *March*,⁴ at least a couple of pages before dinner. Don't you think that looks as if he was much better than he has been for a very long, weary time? Except a one-day attack on Xmas day he has not been ill for nearly six weeks. One doesn't like to

³ *Horæ Subsecivæ. Locke and Sydenham, with Other Occasional Papers* (1858).

⁴ Number XVII, chapters 64-67.

boast about it yet, one can only hope and long for things to have taken a better turn. You see I write just as if I knew you, but I haven't read your books and heard Papa talk about Edinburgh, without learning to count you as a friend.

Please say how d'ye do to Mrs. Brown and to Jock for us, and believe me, very truly yours,

Anne Thackeray.

1391.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH

FEBRUARY 1859⁵

Hitherto unpublished.

I am in for a second bout of Thompson — an accident rendered the first inefficacious, & left almost all the ground to be gone over again. But the pain is very momentary & trifling, I sleep quite well, and except that in the recumbent posture I can't think very brilliantly I actually enjoy the quiet & leisure, the visits of the girls, the look out of the cheerful (win)dow & so on. I would write with a pen but that it blots my (sheet)s and counterpane. I knock off arrears of letters. Providence w^h poor Minny impugns is very tolerably kind to me. She didn't seem to be aware that she had used such rebellious expressions when I took her to task. I asked her why the natural laws were to be interrupted in my particular case? Did Heaven send the little boys out of the shop to knock you down and give you 100 days of pain, & years of lameness? Was it specially concerned in punishing chastising trying blessing, smashing saving those Jews, who were under the tower of Siloam when it fell? ⁶ A brick may have knocked a just man's brains out: and a beam fallen so as to protect a scoundrel who happened to be standing under. The bricks and beams fell according to the laws w^h regulate bricks in tumbling — So with our diseases, we die because we are born; we decay because we grow. I have a right to say O Father give me submission to bear cheerfully (if possible)

⁵ This letter was written shortly after February 19, 1859.

⁶ See *St. Luke*, 13, 4-5.

& patiently my sufferings but I cant request any special change in my behalf from the ordinary processes, or see any special Divine *animus* superintending my illnesses or wellnesses. Those people seem to me presumptuous who are forever dragging the Awful Divinity into a participation with their private concerns. In health, disease, birth, life, death, here, hereafter, I am His subject & creature He lifts me up and sets me down certainly — so He orders my beard to grow. Yonder on my table in the next room is a number of the Earthen Vessel — Brother Jones writes of Brother Brown how preciously he has been dealt with. Brown (has bee)n blessed by an illness: he has had the blessing of getting better; he has relap(ses, p)ains and finally has the blessing of being called out of the world altogether. I dont differ with Brown essentially — only in the compliments as it were w^h he thinks it proper to be for ever paying. I am well. Amen. I am ill. Amen. I die Amen always. I can't say that having a tooth out is a blessing or a punishment for my sins — I say it's having a tooth out.

Bout no 2 is over, and Im sorry to say has done me the smallest amount of good. I wish I had had the heroic remedy applied: w^h must come sooner or later. a little touch of the knife w^h is hardly felt and appears to be the only effectual treatment in my case. There's little or no risk in it. But Thompson who would apply it without hesitation in an ordinary case, is afraid to employ it upon such a well-known public character. In his book⁷ there is an amusing account of old Sir Everard Horne, applying the instrument more than 2000 and caustic more than 500 times to one poor gentle (. . .)⁸ old Pillans who is not rich has sent them 200£, and their brother who is poor 100£ besides being security for the pomes! And think of Charles insisting upon these poor people

⁷ Thompson's *Pathology and Treatment of the Stricture of the Urethra* (1854) was in Thackeray's library at the time of his death (*Catalogues*, ed. Stonehouse, p. 154). See Appendix XXVIII.

⁸ About thirty-five words have here been cut away from the letter. The passage appears to have concerned the financial troubles that beset the Corkrans (see below, No. 1417, note 56), for Mrs. Corkran was the adopted daughter of Professor Pillans (1778–1864), a noted teacher of the classics at the University of Edinburgh.

going to the Marquis del Riso's lectures who charges them 3, 4, 5, I don't know what guineas for their attendance. I haven't seen him since I gave him the 400 — I fear it has not proved sufficient.⁹ I think Mary gave two 20's or two 30's for poor Isabella — She may have those too ere long. And he'll take it. And lucky it is that the money comes in so plentifully. Have you got your surgeons bill? You know that's my affair. I shall receive 600's this month: & have a good little lump in hand besides — And 8500 in the next 2 years from Smith & Elder¹⁰ — prodigious! — besides 800 or 900 of income & no rent. One talks of stopping, but how

⁹ For Colonel Carmichael's financial problems, see above, No. 1351.

¹⁰ Early in 1859 George Smith had determined to establish a new magazine. Each number was to contain an installment of a novel by Thackeray and a variety of other good reading. The price was to be one shilling, which the public was accustomed to pay for the monthly parts of Thackeray's novels alone. These details fixed, Smith gave Thackeray the following memorandum, saying "I wonder whether you will consider it, or will at once consign it to your wastepaper-basket!"

"Smith, Elder, & Co. have it in contemplation to commence the publication of a Monthly Magazine on January 1st, 1860. They are desirous of inducing Mr. Thackeray to contribute to their periodical, and they make the following proposal to Mr. Thackeray:

"1. That he shall write either one or two novels of the ordinary size for publication in the Magazine — one-twelfth portion of each novel (estimated to be about equal to one number of a serial) to appear in each number of the Magazine.

"2. That Mr. Thackeray shall assign to Smith, Elder, & Co. the right to publish the novels in their Magazine and in a separate form afterwards, and to all sums to be received for the work from American and Continental Publishers.

"3. That Smith, Elder, & Co. shall pay Mr. Thackeray 350's. each month.

"4. That the profits of all editions of the novels published at a lower price than the first edition shall be equally divided between Mr. Thackeray and Smith, Elder, & Co.

"65 Cornhill: February 19th, 1859."

"Thackeray read the slip carefully," Smith writes, "and, with characteristic absence of guile, allowed me to see that he regarded the terms as phenomenal. When he had finished reading the paper, he said with a droll smile: 'I am not going to put such a document as this into my wastepaper-basket.'" Shortly afterward he accepted Smith's proposal. (*George Smith, A Memoir*, pp. 106-108)

stop with such fees? Went to see M^{rs} Dickens yesterday. The row appears to be [about] not the actress, but the sister in law — nothing against Miss H¹¹ — except that she is the cleverer & better woman of the two, has got the affections of the children & the father — thank God for having a home where there is nothing but sunshine! the Pillans benefaction is a secret — mind — don't allude to it in writing to M^{rs} (C.) C.¹² The Yates trial is abandoned and he is going to issue a pamphlet¹³ doubtless full of compliments to me — w^h I hope I shant have to answer . . .¹⁴

¹¹ Miss Georgina Hogarth. See above, No. 1357.

¹² Mrs. Charles Carmichael.

¹³ For some time after December 5 Yates's legal proceedings moved slowly, but he continued to snipe at Thackeray in the "Lounge" column of *The Illustrated Times*. His rancorous parody of Thackeray's "Ballad of Bouillabaisse" in the issue of January 29 very nearly resulted, indeed, in the resignation of a large part of the magazine's staff. (Vizetelly, *Glances Back through Seventy Years*, II, 14-15) On the same day Charles Lever, in London on one of his periodical visits, wrote to his wife and daughter: "The Dickens, Yates & Thackeray row comes on at the Law Courts on Wednesday — I heard that they were most anxious to summon me as a witness to prove that when imitated by Thackeray in his prize Novelists — I did not feel any sense of anger — or wounded pride — in fact, the object being — to show that Thackeray — least of all men should protest against any quizzing personality." (Rolfe, *Huntington Library Bulletin*, Number 10, p. 167) At the last moment, however, Yates found it necessary to abandon his suit, for "the Committee pleaded virtually that the whole property of the Club was absolutely vested in trustees, the only persons responsible on its behalf to anybody for anything; that the secretary was a name, and the Committee were a name; that nobody but the trustees had legally incurred, or could legally incur, any responsibility arising out of what had been done to me" (*Recollections and Experiences*, II, 30). His only remedy against the trustees was an action in Chancery, the expenses of which were beyond his means. On March 11 he wrote to a friend (in an unpublished letter owned by Mr. Carlebach): "By a series of Jew-lawyer-like tricks, unprecedented I should hope, the Committee of the Garrick have got the best of me in my legal proceedings, and my only resource . . . has been the publication of a pamphlet, a copy of which I have sent you.

"I trust the facts there set forth, in a temperate, gentlemanly, and withal unvarnished manner will have due weight." This pamphlet was, of course, *Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Yates, and the Garrick Club*.

¹⁴ The final lines of this letter have been cut away.

1392.

TO MR. LEEMING
2 MARCH 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^f S. W.
March 2. 1859

Sir

I have just found your note. I presume M^{rs} Leeming's maiden name was Thackeray, of whom there are many in the North, and doubtless we all come from the same stock. My progenitors ¹⁵ are

* Elias Thackeray .—, buried in Yorkshire

Thomas Thackeray D D. x1760

7 daughters & 7 sons of whom W^m Makepeace Thackeray Esq^e
† 1814 7 daughters & sons one being Richmond Thackeray †
1815 who was father of Your most obdt Serv^t W M Thackeray
b. 1811.

* Elias Thackeray & an epitaph commemorating him are to be found in I forget whose history of Yorkshire.

1393.

TO FREDERIC CHAPMAN
MARCH 1859 ¹⁶

Address: F. Chapman Esq^e. Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Chapman

If you have a copy of the Yates pamphlet wont you lend it to

Yours in bed
W M T.

Send by messenger if you can.

¹⁵ See *Genealogy*. The Thackerays were a clan of Yorkshire farmers, and Elias, who went to Cambridge and held the living of Hawkshurst in Yorkshire, was the first member of the family to distinguish himself. But he was the uncle, not the father, of Thomas Thackeray, who was descended from Elias's farmer brother Timothy. See *Biographical Introductions*, XIII, xxxvi.

¹⁶ Yates's pamphlet was issued shortly before March 11. See above, note 13.

1394.

TO CHARLES KINGSLEY

12 MARCH 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

March 12.

36 O. S.

My dear Kingsley

Thank you for your letter. I have no doubt in my own mind that I was right to be indignant in the matter, and to call the offender before the Club, wh^{ch} is a social Institution quite unlike other clubs, and where men have been in the habit of talking quite freely to one another (in a little room not 15 feet square) for this 1/4 of a century or more. If the penny-a-liner is to come in to this sanctum, and publish his comments upon the conversation there held and the people he meets there, it is all over with the comfort and friendliness of our Society. I never exchanged a word except of kindness with this M^r Yates until the appearance of this article against me. What pains me most is that Dickens should have been his adviser: and next that I should have had to lay a heavy hand on a young man who, I take it, has been cruelly punished by the issue of the affair,¹⁷ and I believe is hardly aware of the nature

¹⁷ Thackeray can hardly have realized quite how severe Yates's ordeal was. It is described in the following letter (which I transcribe from the unpublished original in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library) sent by Yates to Herman Merivale on May 25, 1889, when the latter was collecting material for his *Thackeray*:

"I am much obliged by the kind feeling which has prompted you to write the letter wh. I have just received. Most certainly do I desire that the episode of my controversy with Thackeray sh^d not be 'passed over', but rather entered into with as much detail as you can give to it. To enable you to do this, I send you, not merely the *World* article of last week, which you ask for, but a copy of my *Reminiscences*, in which, at p. 232, you will find the whole story, honestly, fairly, and unemotionally narrated.

"Please bear in mind, first, the circumstances under which the offending little article was written. While the press waited, to supply 'short copy', at a desk in a printing office, with the master-printer at my elbow, urging me on, slip by slip being carried off to the compositors, as it was written. Think that I was then only 27 years old, with wife & three children, supplementing

of his own offence, and doesn't even now understand that a gentleman should resent the monstrous insult w^h he volunteered. Scores of the pennyaline fraternity have written on his side, and a great number of them are agreed that it's the description of *my nose* w^h makes me so furious — Not one of them seems to understand that to be accused of hypocrisy of base motives for public & private

a small Post Office salary by journalistic labour, sitting down at my desk, three or four nights a week, after my day's official grind, sitting down at 8 pm. & steadily writing till midnight. Remember what the social degradation inflicted upon me at Thackeray's instance, not the fury of a moment but deliberately insisted on through six weeks, meant to an unknown man, who had not made any mark then, but was merely pulling the devil by the tail, in a struggle for bread. Think of being 'expelled' from a club, as tho' one had been a card-sharper, a cheat, a thief, a braggart about women! 'He was expelled from the Garrick': for 30 years that has been the cry, no one caring to ask why or wherefore, the kindest among the speakers allowing that it must have been for printing revelations of what I had heard in the club circle! It has been thrown in my teeth by five hundred drunken leprous ruffians in the rags for which they wrote: it has been always brought forward if any friend knowing the real state of affairs ventured to nominate me for any respectable *cenacle*: and it is only within the last six weeks that my selection for the Carlton, over the heads of 2000 waiting candidates, has relieved me from this frightful opprobrium, this shameful stigma which I have borne for 30 years, and enabled me to breathe freely, & to walk with my head erect, in the regions of Clubland. Then, taking the article on the ground of its 'personality', the huge stone with which I was smashed to earth, compare it not merely with W M T's own early writings, but with the articles of now-a-days. In my wretched nonsense, there is no single reference to Thackeray's home-life, no mention of his Club, no 'gossip' of any kind, no hint — God forbid! — at his domestic trouble, no word of anything that was not thoroughly patent & well known at the time. Then, look at the persistent malignity with which I was hunted down! all offer of compromise rejected, nothing but bitter insatiable revenge. I am, by constitution & fibre, a strong man, & I 'lived it down': but in those days I too was sensitive, & it nearly broke me down: what was suffered by my wife and my mother, I shall never forget.

"Throughout all these 30 years, Thackeray, as author, has had no more devoted worshipper: even now, I w^d go through a stiff examination paper, with innumerable quotations from his works: do your paper without any reading *Vanity Fair*, *Pendennis*, *The Newcomes*: & constantly dipping into the *Miscellanies* & the Ballads. But for Thackeray, the man, I shall think, & say, to my dying day, that his treatment of me was one of the wickedest, cruellest, & most damnable acts of tyranny, ever perpetrated.

Always yours

Edmund Yates."

conduct & so forth — are the points w^h make me angry — and I look for more press libels immediately showing how I have ruthlessly persecuted an excellent & harmless young man, and how Dickens has exhausted every possible means to make peace — Dickens who dictated Yates's letters to me, who made him submit to the Committee, then call a general meeting, & then go to law. Well. I know we are in a minority, and I know we are right — and I am very glad you think so. et voila.

Yours ever

W M Thackeray.

1395.

TO WILLIAM DUER ROBINSON

29 MARCH 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

March 29.

My dear W D. I got your letter this morning. I wrote how many pages do you think in reply? 8 — I have just torn those 8 pages into 164 pieces — because they related to the Yates Thackeray row, and because I think (though now nothing prevents me from speaking) that the more dignified and I may say sweller course is to hold my tongue, and let the pennyliners fire away their abuse till the subject dies out. Somebody at last has said something like the truth about the business in a paper w^h I send to you, & my dear good Baxters, & to Fields at Boston, & Mac-michael at Philadelphia — But the paper was written without any previous knowledge of mine, and I never saw it until yesterday — Well, I wish I was coming to N. Y. but you see at one period of my story I was so ill and dawdled so that the American part w^h was to have been in 12 numbers now has dwindled to 6 — the construction the story must perforce be altered, and a study of it *sur les lieux* is impossible. Besides I should have got out of my depth in the military details and must describe them in quite a diff't way to that w^h I had first intended.

Then, for next year, I am engaged to write a story¹⁸ in 16 numbers for w^h I am to receive — well, more than I have ever received yet by 100£ a number. Think of that! and then after a little pause another story. I may want to give up novel-writing but how refuse when I am paid such prodigious sums? Why didnt they buy me at 30, not the tired old horse at 50?

I have done pretty well this last year — am much better I think in health — have had my water-works retinkered and the cisterns & pipes put into good working order, and am very happy with my family thank God: and always remember afftly my dear old W. D — O I should like to come over & see you all that I should!

Come. I'll pay another shilling for this — I can afford it. I made 5000£ last year and spent only half I wish you'd come over. I have 300 bottles of '41, & 48 claret paid for. Shall I go on with another¹⁹

1396.

TO WILLIAM BRADFORD REED

2 APRIL 1859

My text is taken from Reed's *Haud Immemor*, p. 25.

Maurigy's Hotel, 1 Regent Street, Waterloo Place,
April 2, 1859.

My Dear Reed:

This is the best place for you, I think. Two Bishops already in the house. Country gentlefolks and American envoys especially affect it. Mr. Maurigy says you may come for a day at the rate of ten guineas a week, with rooms very clean and nice, which I have just gone over, and go away at the day's end, if you disapprove.

The enclosed note is about the Athenæum, where you may like

¹⁸ *Philip*, the writing of which Thackeray deferred until after the publication of *Lovel the Widower* and *The Four Georges*. As it was finally published, the novel required twenty numbers. It appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* from January, 1861, to August, 1862.

¹⁹ This letter, which was apparently not sent, breaks off here.

to look in. I wrote to Lord Stanhope,²⁰ who is on the committee, to put you up.

I won't bore you by asking you to dinner till we see how matters are, as of course you will consort with bigger wigs²¹ than yours, always,

W. M. Thackeray.

1397.

TO ?

2 APRIL 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W.

April 2.

Dear Sir

Many thanks for the trouble you take. My death of Wolfe is not in print yet,²² and I would gladly read any documents regarding Canada and Wolfe w^h might help me to give one or two touches of reality to the little picture. If your friend will part with his papers I will take good care of them.

The book-post has not yet brought me the volumes w^h you

²⁰ Thackeray's friend Lord Mahon, who had become fifth Earl Stanhope in 1855.

²¹ "No 'bigger wigs' came between us," Reed writes (*Haud Immemor*, pp. 25-26). "During my fortnight in London — for I was hastening home after two years' absence — we saw him nearly every day. He came regularly to our quarters, went with me to the Athenæum — that spot of brilliant association — where he pointed out the eminent men of whom I had heard and read; and then he would go to his working-table in the Club Library, and write for the 'Cornhill', to which he said he had sold himself to slavery for two years. He would carry my son, a young man just of age, off with him to see the London world in odd 'haunts'. I dined with him twice: once at his modest house No. 36 Onslow Square, where we had the great pleasure of seeing his daughters; and once at Greenwich, at a bachelor's dinner. . . . I left London on the 30th April, 1859. Mr. and Miss Thackeray were at the Euston Square station to say farewell. He took my son aside, and to his infinite confusion handed him a little *cadeau*. . . . We parted with a great deal of kindness, please God, and friendly talk of a future meeting."

²² It occurs in chapter 74 of *The Virginians*, part of number XIX (chapters 72 to 75) for May.

have confided to it. The order of Cincinnati was a failure in America & in the pictures of many of the republican leaders they appear with that little decoration.

Very faithfully yours
W. M. Thackeray

1398.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

3-4 APRIL 1859

My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, p. 331.

April 3 and 4.

My Dear J. B. — There is something artless in the accents of the enclosed youth ²³ which inclines my heart towards him. Will you and Madam send him a line and see him, and if he is not a humbug, lend him this bit of paper. If he is not a fit subject, burn the cheque, please. I hope you are both quite well and jolly. . . .

Heard Dean Milman ordering *Horæ Subsecivæ* at the Atheneum the other day. A publisher, who was it? in Edinburgh wrote me some weeks back asking me to review it in the *Quarterly*, but I couldn't make such a good review of it as some person long familiar with Edinburgh Society; and I can't write to ask a favour, but if ever I lay my eyes upon Elwin I will speak of the matter, — not of my doing it, but his getting some fit man.

I send my very best regards to Madam and the children, and am yours, my dear Brown, as always,

W. M. Thackeray.

²³ The enclosure is not described in *Dr. John Brown*.

1399. TO WILLIAM HEPWORTH DIXON
20 APRIL 1859

Hitherto unpublished. Endorsed: April 20, 1859.

Dear Dixon

We have a dinner ²⁴ on the 23 here [*here a hand is sketched pointing to the letterhead of the Garrick Club, above*], and my name has been down ever so long. Otherwise I should have gladly accepted your hospitality at Our Club.²⁵

Yours ever

W M Thackeray.

1400. TO FRANCIS ST. JOHN THACKERAY
6 MAY 1859 ²⁶

My text is taken from Francis Thackeray, *Temple Bar*, July, 1893, p. 376.

May 6.

My dear St. John,

I thought all that hankering about Brompton meant something. I congratulate you with all my heart, and promise you my benediction and a teapot. What can I say more, but that I am yours and your wife's,

Affectionately always,

W. M. Thackeray.

Am just out of bed, having been ill. Am going to work again

²⁴ The annual Shakespeare dinner on St. George's Day.

²⁵ A dinner club for literary men which was founded by Douglas Jerrold and continued to flourish for some time after his death. It met every Saturday evening from November to May on an upper floor of Clunn's Hotel, next door to Evans's Hotel, in the north-west corner of Covent Garden. Jeaffreson (*Book of Recollections*, I, 216-245) describes "Our Club" in detail and gives a list of its members when Thackeray joined it in November, 1861. See also Masson's *Memories of London in the Forties*, pp. 211-256.

²⁶ Francis Thackeray (*Temple Bar*, 1893, p. 376) writes that he received this note in 1859, shortly after he was engaged to be married. His marriage to Louisa Katharine Irvine took place on August 10, 1860 (*Memorials*, p. 496).

immediately. Too busy to come to Oxford to see you billing and cooing.

1401.

TO ?

14 MAY 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r May 14. 1859.

S. W.

Sir

My General was killed²⁷ when your letter came upon the authority too of a bystander who professed to have seen him wounded, carried to the rear, and dying.

But I thank you for thinking of helping me in the matter — and for the token of your kindness & good will.

Your obliged faithful Serv^t

W M Thackeray.

1402.

TO MRS. THERESA HATCH

15 MAY 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

May 15, 1859.

Dear Madam

I have been ill and very busy, or I should sooner have acknowledged your note.²⁸ I am very thankful to have such testimonies

²⁷ See above, No. 1397.

²⁸ Mrs. Hatch's letter, the original of which is owned by Mr. Carlebach, reads as follows: "The intense delight caused by the perusal of each successive book of yours & more especially by that of the Virginians has been raised this morning to such a height by the reading of this that I cannot help laying before you a humble tribute of gratitude & esteem, not to the genius only, but to the man, by whose tenderness & pathos all our best feelings are roused & we are forced to own the power & sometimes, nay often to regret the perspicacity which reads the bad side of our characters with as much ease as the good, who portrays both with equal fidelity & truth making us at one moment ashamed & at another proud to be called 'women'.

"But in the number before me you have more especially spoken to my

1859

TO MRS. DICK

141

of good will as your letter contains, and am occupied this early Sunday morning in answering no less than four w^h the last number of my story ²⁹ has brought me. I have been called misanthrope and cynic so long and so often, that I can't help being pleased when people find out that my heart is not altogether stone. The truth is I think in art as in life that Sentiment should be most carefully and sacredly used: and mistrust the man who is always crying in his books or in his daily dealings. That I can give my readers comfort or pleasure is a sincere pleasure and comfort to me: and the thought of being able sometimes to do so, is one of the most precious rewards w^h my profession brings me. I am glad that you & Theo are both out of your troubles, and am yours dear Madam very faithfully

W M Thackeray

1403.

TO MRS. DICK

27[?] MAY 1859 ³⁰

Hitherto unpublished.

36 O S. S. W

Saturday.

My dear M^{rs} Dick. I am trying to reconstruct that dinner for Friday. June 3. at 7.45. Do you & John please be disengaged and come to

Yours always

W M Thackeray.

feelings in the beautiful & touching description of poor Theo's trial, which by its truthfulness brought before me a trouble of my own so similar that I was forced involuntarily to exclaim to my husband 'He might have known us some years ago.' This I think is a sufficient proof of the masterly way in which you have depicted the emotions of such a time of misery. Men feel equally your power but are not perhaps so willing to own it.

"Pray excuse the liberty I have taken in thus addressing you & accept my thanks for the many delightful hours you have allowed me to spend in your society. May I & all your readers often have the opportunity of looking forward with anxiety & longing for your welcome monthly visit."

²⁹ XIX for May, chapters 72 to 75. Theo's ordeal is described in chapter 75.

³⁰ During the years Thackeray lived at Onslow Square, June 3 fell on Friday only in 1859. This note was probably written the previous Saturday, May 27.

1404.

TO MRS. BLACKWOOD

28 MAY 1859

My text is taken from Sotheby's catalogue of November 10, 1931.

Onslow Square, May 28,

Madam,

On Friday 3 June can you and Monsieur Blackwood come and dine if you please with W. M. T. & Co.

O what a narrow escape I have had this month

Twice ill. 4 days each time. obliged to
come out without my plates.³¹

What a national calamity!

only down at 6

yesterday

ev'g.

Hip Hip

Hurray

1405.

TO MISS COLE

28 MAY 1859³²

Reproduced in facsimile in *The Orphan of Pimlico*, "Gore House." *Endorsed*: Miss Cole.

36 Onslow Sq. S W.

Saturday. 28 May.

Mr Thackeray presents his compliments to the Council, Secretary, Treasurer, and Members of the Trap club,³³ and, in reply to their obliging invitation, has the honor of saying that he most heartily wishes they may catch him.

³¹ See number XIX of *The Virginians*, chapters 76 to 79.

³² During the years Thackeray lived at Onslow Square, May 28 fell on a Saturday only in 1859.

³³ "Trap and ball have been croqueted away," writes Lady Ritchie in *The Orphan of Pimlico*, "and croquet is in turn rolling off disconsolate, since certain fine summer afternoons a great many years ago, when some young people used to play at their innocent games, and sit under the trees in the gardens of Gore House. On one occasion the Miss Coles, the owners of the trap, sent a formal invitation, to which came an answer."



1406.

TO CHARLES LEVER

1859³⁴

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W. Tuesday

My dear L.

Can you send us your Adventure out of hand *and immediately*? I suppose we may have the authors name? If you can let us have the article — 10 pages — by the 8th or so, You may draw next day on Smith & Elder for 50£.

I am puzzled about your affair, being on quite friendly terms with the Chapmans, and not liking to act privily with one of their writers.

Send us the paper, and believe me

Always yours
W M T.

³⁴ This letter was presumably written a short time before No. 1407.

1407.

TO CHARLES LEVER

27 JUNE 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^d S. W.

June 27. 1859.

My dear Lever

You ought to have had a letter 2 days at least sooner. But — O that number! ³⁵ It was only done, after a fearful struggle, on Saturday night.

I have heard from Smith & Elder who are quite willing to treat with you, but are afraid that your terms may be too high. They don't know what they are, nor does your humble Servant.

And Bradbury & Evans dined with me on Friday and *they* also are willing to treat. You dont know perhaps that I leave them, (we remain perfect good friends) and go over to Smith & Elder.

But B & E having room for a monthly periodical might be your best market. Cant you run over and treat yourself personally? Or send me your terms and I will go to one or other. Smith I must tell you is a splendid fellow and a clever Tradesman, as everyone tells me: indeed I have had every reason to be satisfied with both firms.

Yours laconically but sincerely

W M Thackeray.

I saw Fred Chapman just now. I didn't say a word about your letter to me of course.

³⁵ XXI for July, chapters 80 to 83.

1408.

TO JOHN ELLIOT JR.³⁶

28 JUNE 1859

Address: John Elliot Esq^e J^r | Temple. Postmark: LONDON JU 28 59.
Published by Mr. Wilson, *Boston Transcript*, July 31, 1920.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.

June 28 —

—There is at the present moment, somewhere in the West
End of London, a young barrister, who is highly connected,
but in a dreadful dilemma owing to his recent marriage.

My dear J. E.

This letter, so far as the printed extract, was begun who knows how many days ago? — Whilst you were in the bliss of your honeymoon.

The delicate subject of early and imprudent marriages is touched also in the ensuing number of a periodical w^h you read.³⁷ I made such a marriage myself. My means being

8 guineas a week (secured on a newspaper w^h failed 6 months after.) My wifes income 50£ a year promised by her mother, and paid for 2 quarters, since w^h (1837) I have received exactly 10£ on account.

And with this fortune, I have done so well, that, you see, I am not a fair judge of early marriages, but always look upon them, and upon imprudent young people *qui s'aiment* with a partial eye.

In the first 6 months, *I saved money*.

I hope J. E may do likewise; and as to the struggles and ups and downs of life that are before him, that he may bear them with a cheerful heart. How to set to work? How to confront the baker and the butcher with unconcerned face? How to pay that Doctor's fees at that period when he must be called in? These, and a hundred other such questions, you will have to solve. As I think of my own past, and what happened, I say *Laus Deo* with a very

³⁶ Elliot was admitted to the bar on January 26, 1855, and went on the Oxford Circuit, Worcester and Gloucester Sessions. He had chambers at 11 Crown Office Row. (*Law List*, 1858)

³⁷ Thackeray is referring to chapter 81 of *The Virginians*, "Res Augusta Domi," which formed part of the number for July.

humble grateful heart. May your voyage end prosperously too, I sincerely hope and — I am going to say, pray, — for I cant see a friend and his young wife setting forth on a journey w^h I have made myself, and in w^h I have undergone disaster, grief, and immense joys and consolations, without the most serious thoughts and a prayer to God Almighty for his welfare.

I hope we shall see M^{rs} Elliot when you come to town (the only address on your letter was IVORY and I dont know where that is & so write to the Temple) and am yours my dear Elliot

Very sincerely always
W M Thackeray.

1409.

TO LADY MOLESWORTH

24 JULY 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

Sunday
36 Onslow Sq^r

My dear Lady Molesworth

I have been away with my books at a romantic village (Gravesend by name) and only find your kind note upon my return.

On the 22 August D. V. we shall come to pay our visit. I say D. V. for I hope D will be V that my last (double) number ³⁸ will be done by the 22, and the writer of the Virginians a free man. the present number ³⁹ isn't done yet I grieve to say and O dear me it is the 24th! Never mind let us work hard and hope for the best. I wont offer ourselves for a fortnight as you hospitably propose for we have relations whom we must go to and I MUST go and drink some water thats certain.

But before that I will take a little of your wine if you please and am

Always yours very faithfully
W M Thackeray.

³⁸ *The Virginians* did not conclude with a double number. Part XXIII for September, chapters 87 to 90, appeared on August 31; and part XXIV for October, chapters 91 and 92, appeared on October 1 (*Spectator*, 1859, pp. 892 and 1012).

³⁹ XXII for August, chapters 84 to 86.

1410.

TO THOMAS CARLYLE

3 AUGUST 1859⁴⁰August 3. 36 O. Sq^{re}

Dear Carlyle

Perhaps this small present may be useful to you — It is the only steel-pen with w^h I could ever write comfortably, and if it suits your hand as it does mine, why it will save you much pen-knife work and may make your life easier

Yours ever (just on the point of
starting somewhither)

W M T.

It writes better the 2^d day & following than the 1st This I'm writing with is a week I sh^d think in use. Its much best on a smooth paper. Note the number Gillotts 353.

1411. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD

3^d AUGUST 1859⁴¹

Hitherto unpublished.

What do you think, most hard-to-please of men,
Of William Mitchell's patent broad-nibbed pen?
I've bought a box — three shillings for the gross —
At Mitchell's Stationer's in Charing Cross.
Try these: and if you like the pens, I'll trouble you
To write to 36. O. Square. S. W.
Where Somebody is found, who'll gladly spend
Three Bob to be of sarvice to a friend.

PS. I think they seem to suit better for the upright, than the slantingdicular writing.⁴²

P.S. 2. A gentleman has just passed my table with a sweet smile on his face, and in his hand the last number of THE V.R.G.N..NS

⁴⁰ Thackeray's reference to *The Virginians* in the companion note to Brookfield which follows determines the year in which this note was written.

⁴¹ It seems likely that this note was written at the same time as the preceding note to Carlyle.

⁴² This sentence is written in Thackeray's slanting hand, the rest of the letter is in his upright hand.

[For fragments of a letter to Kate Perry 4 August, 1859, see letter 55, Appendix XXVI.]

1412. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

23 AUGUST 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

XXXVI. O.S. S.W.

XXIII. VIII. MCCCCCCCCCLXIX ⁴³

Once more I'm out again, and going about again, should be sorry to have such another bad bout again. Only think of that unlucky Charles whom I told to stop at Haden's on his way saying that he rang 3 times & couldn't get in. Hence I wasted 6 hours. The sickness came on the medicine wouldn't stay in my stomach — and I'm only better this morning. Also. The brandy w^h Cole gave me & w^h I had 1 glass had leaked to a glass & a half: he says 'some one must have another key to the cupboard; also the once-round ties about w^h I made a hubbub have come back into residence in my drawers. I'm afraid the poor fellow is a roguypoguy. But then the poor fellow took an excursion train 5/ there & back and only spent 8^d for his dinner.

Nothing has happened except that I have a letter from an anonymous gentleman in Germany who says that unless I can help him to something to do, he shall shoot himself on the night of the 8th September next in St James's Park! — a German evidently, but writing excellent English.

The news with Smith & Elder is this.⁴⁴ For the new Magazine we are going to turn the Comedy into a story in 6 numbers to be

⁴³ A mistake, of course, for 1859.

⁴⁴ Smith had for some time tried without success to find a suitable editor for his new magazine, when it at length occurred to him that Thackeray might be willing to accept the post. Thackeray was engaged at £1,000 a year, and after the immense success of the first number (see below, No. 1432), his salary was doubled. Laden with this new burden, Thackeray thought it unwise to begin his long novel immediately, and consequently set about turning *The Wolves and the Lamb* into *Lovel the Widower*. (George Smith, pp. 108 and 114)

followed by the 4 Georges in 4 numbers — and not begin the long story until July. Haden strongly recommends me to try Harrogate or Aix les Bains — And Im at a loss between the 2. It will be late for the latter when my next number is done.

And tell M^{rs} Southern with my compliments that I hope the married couple will go out of my room tomorrow as we shall scarcely be comfortable three in a bed.

And give Sir W^m ⁴⁵ an old man's blessing for taking care of my daughters — I shan't make any promises about coming down *à cause*: but I hope tomorrow will be the happy day & shall have spent 6 days in London, on only the first of w^h any work was done. Perhaps it mayn't be tomorrow after all. There are still 12 pages to do.

And so farewell my sweet young creatures says

Your respectable père

W M T.

Of course give the poor boys anything you like.

1413.

TO GEORGE SMITH

7 SEPTEMBER 1859

My text is taken from a facsimile in Sir Leslie Stephen's terminal essay, "The Writings of W. M. Thackeray", in the "De Luxe" edition of Thackeray's *Works*, XXVI (1886), after p. 360.

Pavilion. Folkestone

Wednesday. 7 Sep^r

My dear Smith

I only finished my number ⁴⁶ at 2 o'clock this m^s and now D. V. propose to do nothing till the end of the month. I will be in London D.V. on Monday m^s October 3. If you want me on Saturday 1, a letter will find me at Bordeaux Poste Restante.

Sir H. Rawlinson has promised me some short papers: and

⁴⁵ Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William Plunkett de Bathe (1793-1870), third Baronet, a Garrick Club crony of Thackeray's.

⁴⁶ XXIV.

Charles Dunn one or two upon the Old Actors and Talma and Mars during the Army of Occupation in France. Hannay might do a set of Salt-water heroes. Collingwood. Van Tromp. Jean Bart, a Buccaneer or so. If he will do them as well as that noble paper in the Quarterly, and I think he will for an old friend. As I think of the editing business I like it. But the Magazine must bear my *cachet* you see and be a man of the world Magazine, a little cut of Temple Bar, or Charles I on the outside? We will have further talk October 3. I am surprized I have finished the Virginians so well — O what a load is off my mind!

Never mind, we will lay another on soon.

Always yours,
W M Thackeray.

G. Smith Esq^e

1414.

TO MRS. PROCTER

10 SEPTEMBER 1859 ⁴⁷

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript given Lady Ritchie by George Murray Smith.

Saturday.

My dear Mrs Procter,

The dinner is ON again. Three men accepted yesterday, one very handsome, one very interesting, two like the Calenders in the Arabian Nights with one eye apiece ⁴⁸ (we will make them narrate their adventures) and at dinner last night I met little Fields and his wife who has never actually been to Greenwich.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ It appears from Fields's story below that this letter was written on September 10, the Saturday intervening between Thackeray's completion of *The Virginians* on September 7 and his departure for the continent about September 15.

⁴⁸ See "The History of the Three Calendars".

⁴⁹ "I happened to be one of a large company," writes Fields (*Yesterdays with Authors*, pp. 17-18), "whom [Thackeray] had invited to a six-o'clock dinner at Greenwich one summer afternoon, several years ago. We were all to go down from London, assemble in a particular room at the hotel, where he

Now please let me withdraw my letter of yesterday, and if my Contributor ⁵⁰ will come too she will give great pleasure to my other Contributor and to,

Yours always,
W. M. Thackeray.

1415.

TO ALFRED TENNYSON

? SEPTEMBER-16 OCTOBER 1859 ⁵¹

My text is taken from the second Baron Tennyson's *Alfred Lord Tennyson* (London, 1897), I, 444-446.

Folkestone, September.
36 Onslow Square, October.

My dear Old Alfred,

I owe you a letter of happiness and thanks. Sir, about three weeks ago, when I was ill in bed, I read the "Idylls of the King,"

was to meet us at six o'clock, *sharp*. Accordingly we took steamer and gathered ourselves together in the reception-room at the appointed time. When the clock struck six, our host had not fulfilled his part of the contract. His burly figure was yet wanting among the company assembled. As the guests were nearly all strangers to each other, and as there was no one present to introduce us, a profound silence fell upon the room, and we anxiously looked out of the windows, hoping every moment that Thackeray would arrive. This untoward state of things went on for one hour, still no Thackeray and no dinner. English reticence would not allow any remark on the absence of our host. Everybody felt serious and a gloom fell upon the assembled party. Still no Thackeray. The landlord, the butler, and the waiters rushed in and out the room, shrieking for the master of the feast, who as yet had not arrived. It was confidently whispered by a fat gentleman with a hungry look, that the dinner was utterly spoiled twenty minutes ago, when we heard a merry shout in the entry and Thackeray bounced into the room. He had not changed his morning dress, and ink was still visible upon his fingers. Clapping his hands and pirouetting briskly on one leg, he cried out, 'Thank Heaven, the last sheet of *The Virginians* has just gone to the printer.' He made no apology for his late appearance, introduced nobody, shook hands heartily with everybody, and begged us all to be seated as quickly as possible. His exquisite delight at completing his book swept away every other feeling, and we all shared his pleasure, albeit the dinner was overdone throughout."

⁵⁰ Adelaide Procter, from whom Thackeray had already secured the promise of a contribution to the *Cornhill Magazine*.

⁵¹ This letter was begun shortly before Thackeray left for the continent on September 15 and completed on October 16.

and I thought, "O I must write to him now, for this pleasure, this delight, this splendour of happiness which I have been enjoying." But I should have blotted the sheets, 'tis ill writing on one's back. The letter full of gratitude never went as far as the post-office and how comes it now?

D'abord, a bottle of claret. (The landlord of the hotel asked me down to the cellar and treated me.) Then afterwards sitting here, an old magazine, *Fraser's Magazine*, 1850, and I come on a poem out of "The Princess"⁵² which says, "I hear the horns of Elfland blowing blowing," no, it's "the horns of Elfland faintly blowing" (I have been into my bedroom to fetch my pen and it has made that blot), and, reading the lines, which only one man in the world could write, I thought about the other horns of Elfland blowing in full strength, and Arthur in gold armour, and Guinevere in gold hair, and all those knights and heroes and beauties and purple landscapes and misty gray lakes in which you have made me live. They seem like facts to me, since about three weeks ago (three weeks or a month was it?) when I read the book. It is on the table yonder, and I don't like, somehow, to disturb it, but the delight and gratitude! You have made me as happy as I was as a child with the *Arabian Nights*, every step I have walked in Elfland has been a sort of Paradise to me. (The landlord gave two bottles of his claret and I think I drank the most) and here I have been lying back in the chair and thinking of those delightful "Idylls," my thoughts being turned to you: what could I do but be grateful to that surprising genius which has made me so happy? Do you understand that what I mean is all true and that I should break out were you sitting opposite with a pipe in your mouth? Gold and purple and diamonds, I say, gentlemen and glory and love and honour, and if you haven't given me all these why should I be in such an ardour of gratitude? But I have had out of that dear book the greatest delight that has ever come to me since I was a young man; to write and think about it makes me almost young, and this I suppose is what I'm doing, like an after-dinner speech.

⁵² "The Splendour Falls", one of the songs added to the revised edition (1850) of *The Princess*.

P.S. I thought the "Grandmother"⁵³ quite as fine. How can you at 50 be doing things as well as at 35?

October 16th. (I should think six weeks after the writing of the above.)

The rhapsody of gratitude was never sent, and for a peculiar reason; just about the time of writing I came to an arrangement with Smith and Elder to edit their new magazine, and to have a contribution from T. was the publishers' and editor's highest ambition. But to ask a man for a favour, and to praise and bow down before him in the same page seemed to be so like hypocrisy, that I held my hand, and left this note in my desk, where it has been lying during a little French-Italian-Swiss tour which my girls and their papa have been making.

Meanwhile S.E. and Co. have been making their own proposals to you, and you have replied not favourably I am sorry to hear: but now there is no reason why you should not have my homages, and I am just as thankful for the "Idylls," and love and admire them just as much, as I did two months ago when I began to write in that ardour of claret and gratitude. If you can't write for us you can't. If you can by chance some day, and help an old friend, how pleased and happy I shall be! This however must be left to fate and your convenience: I don't intend to give up hope, but accept the good fortune if it comes.⁵⁴ I see one, two, three quarterlies advertized to-day, as all bringing laurels to laureatus. He will not refuse the private tribute of an old friend, will he? You don't know how pleased the girls were at Kensington t'other day to hear you quote their father's little verses, and he too I daresay was not disgusted. He sends you and yours his very best regards in this most heartfelt and artless (note of admiration)!

Always yours, my dear Alfred,
W. M. Thackeray.

⁵³ "The Grandmother's Apology", which was published with an illustration by Millais in *Once a Week*, July 16, 1859. It was reprinted as "The Grandmother" in *Enoch Arden* (1864).

⁵⁴ See below, No. 1432.

1416.

TO GEORGE SMITH
29 SEPTEMBER 1859

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie's "The First Number of 'The Cornhill' ", *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I (1896), 3.

Coire, Switzerland, September 29, 1859.

Have you found a title? St. Lucius, *who founded the church of St. Peter, Cornhill*, is buried here.⁵⁵ Help us, good St. Lucius! and I will be your faithful W. M. T.

1417.

TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
1 OCTOBER 1859

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xv, xvii; additions in *Thackeray and his Daughter*, pp. 121-123.

Chur. Saturday. 1 October

My dear old Granny

We have not been in Paradise for the last week, but, please God, Anny's difficulties are near over; and now I want to be in town or near a good surgeon, for my botherations are annoying me a good deal. There is good however out of all these mishaps, Min has been a famous nurse for her sister and has borne her hard times very well: and if she repents of having had her way, and somewhat in opposition to her Papa's, I shall not be sorry for the circumstances. Anny thinks now that if she had had a dose of medicine in the good old British fashion, her illness might have been spared her. But who can calculate the might-have-beens? My own old enemy gives me rather serious cause for disquiet — not the spasms — the hydraulics — a constant accompaniment of those disorders is disordered spirits — and well they may be: but mine will rise

⁵⁵ Thackeray and his daughters had come to Chur by way of Boulogne, Tours, Milan, Como, and the Via Mala. Annie's illness delayed them for some time in the Swiss village, which is described in *The Roundabout Papers* (*Works* XII, 167-169), and they did not return to England until mid-October. See *Thackeray and his Daughter*, p. 121.

again when my gal is all right — and I am within reach of my bed-room and Doctor.

We could not have had a prettier prison than this dear little old town: nor, I am sure, a more patient prisoner. If I could but have had pluck enough to do some work, I might have turned the imprisonment to some account: but I tried and hadn't the heart that's the truth — though I recollect having to work when poor Nan had the same complaint as a baby twenty years ago, and it was necessary to find a guinea for the Doctor. If I can work for 3 years now, I shall have put back my patrimony and a little over — after 30 years of ups and downs. I made a calculation the other day of receipts in the last 20 years and can only sum up about 32000£ of moneys actually received — for w^h I have values or disbursements of 13000 — so that I havent spent at the rate of more than 1000 a year for 20 years. The profits of the lectures figure as the greatest of the receipts 9500£ — Virginians 6 — Vanity Fair only 2. 3 years more please the Fates — and the girls will then have the 8 or 10000 a piece that I want for them: and we mustn't say a word against filthy lucre, for I see the use & comfort of it every day more and more. What a blessing not to mind about bills! — The expenses of this journey for the first 18 days were prodigious: and who cares? I, for my part, should have liked no journey at all, or not farther than Hombourg or Baden — but the young folks willed otherwise, or seemed to will — and I like them to have their holyday. All along the road they have worked the prices up to be pretty like England — the inn at Milan where they charged us 12 francs for rooms 8 years ago, they make you pay 25 now, and so on and so on. I wonder what your resolves have come to by this time, and whether you'll stay on in England or have gone back to Paris, or will try Bath or Brighton? I have been living at Bath for the last 10 days in Miss Austen's novels w^h have helped me to carry through a deal of dreary time — they and the Times newspaper w^h the landlord of this out of the way Inn luckily takes in for the English who *don't* come. How dismal I should have been without the Times Newspaper! Well, I have been dismal enough with it: but my dear Nan is better please God;

and her Pa's spirits rise accordingly. Now let us go and get some money at the Banker's, and tomorrow D V. let us be on our way home to work and printers devils. I have dreamed constantly that the number wasn't ready & here was the end of the month! It shows how the care weighs upon one: but Law bless us, who hasn't cares at 50 of some shape or other? As I think about the poor Corkrans and *their* cares,⁵⁶ I'm ashamed of my own good fortune. Heres my paper full Goodbye my dear G P and my dear old Mother.

W M T.

1418.

TO GEORGE SMITH

4 OCTOBER 1859

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 3.

Zürich, October 4, 1859.

I see Macmillan's advertisement, and am glad he appears in November.⁵⁷ The only name I can think of as yet is "The Cornhill Magazine." It has a sound of jollity and abundance about it.

⁵⁶ "In my father's time of trouble," writes Henriette Corkran (*Celebrities and I*, p. 109), "Mr. Thackeray was much more than a brother to him. I am sure that he fully appreciated my father's nature — a proud oversensitive man, full of intellect, but shy and unobtrusive. My mother told me that when he heard for the first time of my parents' pecuniary loss he was most agitated, and turning to my mother he asked her what she was going to do.

"I mean to trust to the ravens," she answered.

"An expression of pain flitted over the great man's face, but after a few seconds of silence he put his large hand over hers, and in a husky voice said, 'And so you may; the ravens are kind friends.'"

⁵⁷ The first number of *Macmillan's Magazine*, which like *The Cornhill Magazine* sold for a shilling, appeared in November. It was edited by Thackeray's friend David Masson.

1419. TO JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD⁵⁸
19 OCTOBER 1859

My text is taken from an Anderson Galleries catalogue, May 26, 1909.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your volume, in which I have been reading with much pleasure last night and this morning. I had already spoken to Messrs. Smith & Elder about my anxiety to have the services of the author of the *Paper City*.⁵⁹ I cannot offer you such a post as you desire on the new magazine, and I fear, can only beg you to write more and more. Can you oblige me with a visit some morning? say this day week (any other will do) the 26th before 12 o'clock? You will find that we are good paymasters for good work.

Very faithfully yours,
W. M. Thackeray

I want some articles done which can be better discussed by talk than by letter.

1420. FROM THOMAS CARLYLE
20 OCTOBER 1859

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 4.

October 20, 1859.

Dear Thackeray, — Right gladly I would, if only I could, but I can yet bethink me of nothing in the least likely. Indeed I am so crushed to death amid Prussian rubbish,⁶⁰ these long years past,

⁵⁸ Hollingshead (1827–1904), who had turned to journalism after working as a bagman and a cloth merchant, was at this time on the staff of *Household Words*. From 1868 to 1888 he was manager of the Gaiety Theatre, where in 1880 he was the first English producer to stage a play by Ibsen.

⁵⁹ "The City of Unlimited Paper", an article inspired by the accommodation bill crisis of 1857, which appeared in *Household Words* on December 19 of that year (pp. 1–4). Hollingshead describes his connection with *The Cornhill Magazine* in *My Lifetime*, I, 161–165.

⁶⁰ Carlyle had begun his *History of Friedrich II of Prussia, called Frederick the Great* in 1851. The first two volumes were published in 1858, the sixth and last in 1865.

I have nearly lost the power of thinking in any form, and am possessed by one sad futile ghost of a thought. How am I to get out of this cursed thing alive? If ever I do live to get out of it and find the Thackeray Magazine and Editor still lively, then!

Meanwhile I do not quite give the matter up, your matter I mean, as desperate. And if any possibility do offer, be sure I will lay hold of it. With prayers for the new periodical and you,

Yours ever,
T. Carlyle.

1421.

TO ANTHONY TROLLOPE ⁶¹

28 OCTOBER 1859

My text is taken from Trollope's *Autobiography* (Stratford-upon-Avon, 1929), p. 99.

36 Onslow Square, S. W.,
October 28th.

My dear Mr. Trollope, — Smith & Elder have sent you their proposals; and the business part done, let me come to the pleasure, and say how very glad indeed I shall be to have you as co-operator in our new magazine.⁶² And looking over the annexed programme,⁶³ you will see whether you can't help us in many other ways besides tale-telling. Whatever a man knows about life and its doings, that let us hear about. You must have tossed a good deal about the world, and have countless sketches in your memory and your portfolio. Please to think if you can furbish up any of these besides a novel. When events occur, and you have a good lively tale, bear us in mind. One of our chief objects in this magazine is the getting out of novel spinning, and back into the world. Don't understand me to disparage our craft, especially *your* wares. I often say I am like the pastry-cook, and don't care for tarts, but prefer bread and cheese; but the public

⁶¹ See *Memoranda*.

⁶² Trollope's *Framley Parsonage* appeared serially in *The Cornhill Magazine* from January, 1860, to April, 1861.

⁶³ A printed copy of the next letter.

love the tarts (luckily for us), and we must bake and sell them. There was quite an excitement in my family one evening when Paterfamilias (who goes to sleep on a novel almost always when he tries it after dinner) came up-stairs into the drawing-room wide awake and calling for the second volume of *The Three Clerks*.⁶⁴ I hope the *Cornhill Magazine* will have as pleasant a story. And the Chapmans, if they are the honest men I take them to be, I've no doubt have told you with what sincere liking your works have been read by yours very faithfully,

W. M. Thackeray.

1422. TO "A FRIEND AND CONTRIBUTOR"

1 NOVEMBER 1859

My text is taken from *George Smith*, pp. 109-111.

'The Cornhill Magazine,' Smith, Elder & Co.
65, Cornhill, November 1, 1859.

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR TO A FRIEND AND CONTRIBUTOR.

Dear —. Our Store-House being in Cornhill, we date and name our Magazine from its place of publication. We might have assumed a title much more startling: for example, 'The Thames on Fire' was a name suggested; and, placarded in red letters about the City, and Country, it would no doubt have excited some curiosity. But, on going to London Bridge, the expectant rustic would have found the stream rolling on its accustomed course, and would have turned away angry at being hoaxed. Sensible people are not to be misled by fine prospectuses and sounding names; the present Writer has been for five-and-twenty years before the world, which has taken his measure pretty accurately. We are too long acquainted to try and deceive one another; and were I to propose any such astounding feat as that above announced, I know quite well how the schemer would be received, and the scheme would end.

⁶⁴ Which Trollope had published in 1858.

You, then, who ask what 'The Cornhill Magazine' is to be, and what sort of articles you shall supply for it? — if you were told that the Editor, known hitherto only by his published writings, was in reality a great reformer, philosopher, and wise-acre, about to expound prodigious doctrines and truths until now unrevealed, to guide and direct the peoples, to pull down the existing order of things, to edify new social or political structures, and, in a word, to set the Thames on Fire; if you heard such designs ascribed to him — *risum teneatis?*⁶⁵ You know I have no such pretensions: but, as an Author who has written long, and had the good fortune to find a very great number of readers, I think I am not mistaken in supposing that they give me credit for experience and observation, for having lived with educated people in many countries, and seen the world in no small variety; and, having heard me soliloquise, with so much kindness and favour, and say my own say about life, and men and women, they will not be unwilling to try me as Conductor of a Concert, in which I trust many skilful performers will take part.

We hope for a large number of readers, and must seek, in the first place, to amuse and interest them. Fortunately for some folks, novels are as daily bread to others; and fiction of course must form a part, but only a part, of our entertainment. We want, on the other hand, as much reality as possible — discussion and narrative of events interesting to the public, personal adventures and observations, familiar reports of scientific discovery, description of Social Institutions — *quicquid agunt homines*⁶⁶ — a 'Great Eastern,' a battle in China, a Race-Course, a popular Preacher — there is hardly any subject we *don't* want to hear about, from lettered and instructed men who are competent to speak on it.

I read the other day in 'The Illustrated London News' (in my own room at home), that I was at that moment at Bordeaux, purchasing first-class claret for first-class contributors, and second class for those of inferior *cru*.⁶⁷ Let me adopt this hospitable simile;

⁶⁵ Horace, *Ars Poetica*, l. 5.

⁶⁶ Juvenal, *Satires*, I, 85.

⁶⁷ "TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &C. . . .

and say that at our contributors' table, I do not ask or desire to shine especially myself, but to take my part occasionally, and to invite pleasant and instructed gentlemen and ladies to contribute their share to the conversation. It may be a Foxhunter who has the turn to speak; or a Geologist, Engineer, Manufacturer, Member of the House of Commons, Lawyer, Chemist — what you please. If we can only get people to tell what they know, pretty briefly and good-humouredly, and not in a manner obtrusively didactic, what a pleasant ordinary we may have, and how gladly folks will come to it! If our friends have good manners, a good education, and write in good English, the company, I am sure, will be all the better pleased; and the guests, whatever their rank, age, sex be, will be glad to be addressed by well-educated gentlemen and women. A professor ever so learned, a curate in his country retirement, an artisan after work-hours, a schoolmaster or mistress when the children are gone home, or the young ones themselves when their lessons are over, may like to hear what the world is talking about, or be brought into friendly communication with persons whom the world knows. There are points on which agreement is impossible, and on these we need not touch. At our social table, we shall suppose the ladies and children always present; we shall not set up rival politicians by the ears; we shall listen to every guest who has an apt word to say; and, I hope, induce clergymen of various denominations to say grace in their turn. The kindly fruits of the earth, which grow for all — may we not enjoy them with friendly hearts? The field is immensely wide; the harvest perennial, and rising everywhere; we can promise competent fellow-labourers a welcome and a good wage; and hope a fair custom from the public for our stores at 'THE CORNHILL MAGAZINE.'

W. M. Thackeray.

New Year's Day is to give us No. 1 (one of many, we trust) of an unnamed magazine under the control of Mr. Thackeray. . . . Thackeray is at Bordeaux, ordering first-class claret for his first-class contributors and second-class claret for his second-class contributors. Michael Angelo Titmarsh, fie, for shame!" (*Illustrated London News*, October 15, p. 369)

1423.

TO GEORGE SMITH
NOVEMBER 1859⁶⁸

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, xxv-xxvi.

My dear S. — Do do the other announcement yourself. I am so horribly nervous at this minute I can't.

It will be the greatest of pities if we give up the accounts of good books. Here is a letter from Captain Galton⁶⁹ regarding one book the Engineer acct. of the Siege of Sebastopol of which I wanted a good account and you will see who was ready to do it. Twelve good articles on twelve good books I maintain would be as readable, pleasant, and useful as any we could furnish in the shape of tales, sketches, etc.

Send me back letters of Galton & Wrottesley;⁷⁰ we must take Sir John and his name used in paragraphs hereafter will be very useful.

I have been with Mr. Keene⁷¹ and pressed him in vain. His hands he says are quite too full. I spent a great part of yesterday at the Museum trying if I could devise a title page myself but this morning bethought that my friend Mr. Cole at the Boilers might find an artist to my purpose. He introduced me to a gentleman there of the very highest skill to whom I explained the design we wanted, who took immediately my view of it and will bring me a drawing as soon as done.⁷²

Yours,

W. M. T.

⁶⁸ This note was written shortly after Thackeray's letter of November 1, the "other announcement" mentioned below.

⁶⁹ Captain Douglas Strutt Galton (1822-1899), later (1887) K. C. B., civil servant, writer, and inventor.

⁷⁰ Sir John, second Baron Wrottesley (1798-1867), an eminent scientist who was President of the Royal Society from 1854 to 1858.

⁷¹ Charles Keene (1823-1891), cartoonist for *Punch* from 1851 to 1890.

⁷² Smith writes that "The cover of the magazine, designed by Mr. Godfrey Sykes, a young student at the South Kensington Schools of Art [popularly known as the 'Brompton Boilers'], had the good fortune to strike the popular taste, and I still think it most effective. When I showed the sketch of the

1424. TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN
9 NOVEMBER 1859

Extract published by Warwick Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 240.

36 Onslow Sq: S. W. 9 Nov.

In happier times the owner of the umble name signed to this prospectus used occasionally to have an honoured visit and remembrance from the Reverend Doubleyou E.

That divine has however made *ascertained visits to London*,⁷³ where he has been locked up without being allowed to communicate with acquaintances of ahappier ayears. Flere tacere is my motto: has this pockethandkercher (the writer uses it) been so utterly wrung with grief that it can't mop up a pint or two of hagony more? O Elwin O rector of Boo-ooo-ooo-hoo-hooton!

But no more of my private griefs w^h are those of *the man*: on the other page⁷⁴ Sir, my brother, I address you as the Editor and am

de votre Majesté Trimestrielle
le Bon Frère
Cornucopiosus I

1425. TO ?
10 NOVEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^{re} S. W.
November 10. 1859.

Sir

The accompanying note⁷⁵ will show you the tone of the periodical we are about to publish: and you will be able to judge from

cover to Thackeray, he said: 'What a lovely design! I hope you have given the man a good cheque!' " (*George Smith*, p. 111)

⁷³ During these visits Elwin appears to have stayed with Forster, who sided with Dickens in the Garrick Club Affair.

⁷⁴ This note is written on the second leaf of Thackeray's printed letter of November 1. ⁷⁵ A copy of Thackeray's printed letter of November 1.

your own experience in what you are most likely and able to help us. I shall be glad to look at short readable and suggestive articles from the Manufacturing Districts, if you can furnish me with a specimen or two, and to use them if suitable for the Cornhill Magazine. Please to keep copies of all you send me as I cannot undertake to return all unacceptable articles.

Your obdt Servt

W M Thackeray

1426. TO HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

16 NOVEMBER 1859

Published in part by Samuel Longfellow, *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*, II, 346. My text is taken from a facsimile in *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 6-7.

36 Onslow Sq^{re} S. W. London

Nov^r 16. 1859.

My dear M^r Longfellow,

Has Hiawatha ever a spare shaft in his quiver, w^h he can shoot across the Atlantic? How proud I should be if I could have a Contribution or two from you for our Cornhill Magazine! ⁷⁶

I should like still better to be driving to Cambridge in the snow, and expecting a supper there and 2 or 3 months ago actually thought such a scheme was about to come off. I intended to shut up my desk for a year.— not write a line — and go on my travels. But the Gods willed otherwise. I am pressed into the service of this Magazine, and engaged to write ever so much more for the next 3 years. *Then*, if I last so long, I shall be free of books & publishers: and hope to see friends to whose acquaintance I look back with I can't tell you how much gratitude and kind feeling.

I send my best regards to Tom Appleton and beg him to back my petition to his brother-in-law.⁷⁷

Always Sincerely yours

W M Thackeray

⁷⁶ Thackeray was not successful in securing a contribution from Longfellow.

⁷⁷ Longfellow had married Frances Elizabeth Appleton.

P.S. If you see Sumner,⁷⁸ will you, please, tell him that his books were forwarded to M^r Ivor of Liverpool and went out in the Canada with the Senator himself.⁷⁹

1427.

TO MR. CUPPLES
18 NOVEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

November 18. 1859
36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

Dear M^r Cupples

I wrote a note many days ago in reply to yours, but cleverly directed it to S^t Leonard's whence it was returned to me.

I am full of continuations at this present minute and cant afford to take in 35 pages of Ghost Story. I rather want fact than fiction. You've seen our address I daresay — Cast about in your mind whether there is anything you know, or have seen, to w^h you can help us.

Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

Brevity is best — 6, 7, 8 pages.

1428.

TO ROBERT BROWNING
19 NOVEMBER 1859

My text is taken from a Sotheby catalogue, May 1-8, 1913, lot 298.

A friend of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett, his wife, has agreed to become Editor of A Magazine w^h is to appear with the New Year.

He wishes to provide for the public as much amusement, as much instruction, as much knowledge, pleasure, poetry, pathos,

⁷⁸ Charles Sumner, Longfellow's intimate friend, had recently left England for the United States.

⁷⁹ James Murray Mason (1798-1871), United States Senator from Virginia, with whom Sumner was at feud. Mason was later (1861) a Confederate Diplomatic Commissioner to Europe.

fun, as can be procured for love or money. He has a great deal of the first and a liberal portion of the latter to offer such contributors as R. and E. B. B. Have one or both of you a short poem w^h you can give for an early number of the *Cornhill Magazine*?

(Private.) Two young ladies named Thackeray send very kind remembrances to the above-mentioned lady and gentleman.

1429.

TO ?

28 NOVEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

November 28, 1859.

Dear Sir

The Magazine is open to all comers; and because you thought I was curt and discourteous ever so long ago, and because I thought you made me a proposal w^h had been better left alone, there is no ill-blood I trust, and no earthly reason why you should not write me a good Article for the Cornhill Magazine. I have not followed your papers of late years, and dont know what your *spécialité* is. I don't want stories unless perchance they are short and very remarkably good; nor London Sketches, having 2 or 3 artists already engaged upon such works. You had best think of some subjects that you would like best and know best how [to] write about, and call some morning before 12 on

Yours faithfully

W M Thackeray.

Next week will be better than this.

1432.

TO THOMAS HOOD ⁸⁰

6 DECEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

December I mean

{November} 6. 59

36 Onslow Sq. S. W.

My dear M^r Hood

Pyrrha ⁸¹ is charming, and I shall hang up her yellow tresses
grato antro, and I shall keep Spring s. v. p for Spring time. I
 don't say I'll take the Remarkable Dream: & dont say otherwise.
 Let the author write some more for me. The writer of the Dream
 can do better than that: Its very lively & pleasant though.

Faithfully yours

W M Thackeray

1431.

TO A. ANDERSON

15 DECEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished. In the hand of Anne Thackeray, but signed by Thack-
 eray.

36. Onslow Square

Dec. 15, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I regret that I am too busy to attend your Fête on the 29th I
 can only wish every prosperity to your Institute and remain

Your obliged faithful servant

W M Thackeray.

A. Anderson Esq

&c. &c.

⁸⁰ Son (1835-1874) of the poet and humorist of the same name.

⁸¹ "To Goldenhair", Hood's imitation of the fifth ode of Horace's first book,
 which begins:

Quis multa gracilis te puer in rosa

perfusus liquidis urget odoribus

grato, Pyrrha, sub antro?

"To Goldenhair" and "Spring" appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* of
 February and April, 1860, respectively, but Thackeray did not use "The
 Remarkable Dream".

1432.

TO MRS. TENNYSON
15 DECEMBER 1859

Address: Mr^s Tennyson | Faringford | Isle of Wight. Postmark: LONDON
DE 15 59. Hitherto unpublished.

Pathological Society of London.
53, Berners Street.
36 Onslow Sq^e S. W. Dec^r 15.

My dear Mr^s Tennyson.

Hip Hip Hurray. Our number is gone to press⁸² but the poem will be still more welcome for February,⁸³ for a reason whⁱ I wonder whether Alfred will guess when he buys (as I trust he will do) No 1 of the Cornhill Magazine. I am so glad he has thought of

⁸² It was successful beyond Thackeray's most sanguine expectations. "The announcement by his publishers," writes Fields (*Yesterdays with Authors*, pp. 30-31), "that a sale of a hundred and ten thousand of the first number had been reached made the editor half delirious with joy, and he ran away to Paris to be rid of the excitement for a few days. I met him by appointment at his hotel in the Rue de la Paix, and found him wild with exultation and full of enthusiasm for excellent George Smith, his publisher. 'London,' he exclaimed, 'is not big enough to contain me now, and I am obliged to add Paris to my residence! Great heavens,' said he, throwing up his long arms, 'where will this tremendous circulation stop! Who knows but that I shall have to add Vienna and Rome to my whereabouts? If the worst comes to the worst, New York, also, may fall into my clutches, and only the Rocky Mountains may be able to stop my progress!' Those days in Paris with him were simply tremendous. We dined at all possible and impossible places together. We walked round and round the glittering court of the Palais Royal, gazing in at the windows of the jewellers' shops, and all my efforts were necessary to restrain him from rushing in and ordering a pocketful of diamonds and 'other trifles', as he called them; 'for,' said he, 'how can I spend the princely income which Smith allows me for editing the Cornhill, unless I begin instantly somewhere?' If he saw a group of three or four persons talking together in an excited way, after the manner of that then riant Parisian people, he would whisper to me with immense gesticulation: 'There, there, you see the news has reached Paris, and perhaps the number has gone up since my last accounts from London.' His spirits during those few days were colossal, and he told me that he found it impossible to sleep, 'for counting up his subscribers.'"

⁸³ Tennyson's "Tithonus" duly appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for February, 1860, pp. 175-176.

me. And I am writing from my Doctors ⁸⁴ and my fingers are,
o so cold!

Always faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

1433.

TO MRS. IRVINE
16 DECEMBER 1859

Hitherto unpublished.

December 16. 1859.

Dear M^{rs} Irvine

We sent St John ⁸⁵ away yesterday with a box of sweets to the sweet ⁸⁶ — and here I find, on my study table, A Pie presented to me by the same indefatigable giver of good things (an American) who brought us the sweetmeats.

As for this pie, he gave me one the other day, and it made me so sick that I daren't attack another. It is pisonous to me this pie is.

But St John is young, has I hope a fine appetite, and a good digestion, and mayn't be afraid of foie gras for breakfast: (I suppose he breakfasts?) Do put this delicacy down before him, as a savory token of his kinsman's benevolence.

Always yours
W M Thackeray.

1434. FROM RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES

27 DECEMBER 1859

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 3-4.

Broadlands: December 27.

My dear T. — Obligated for and pleased with No. 1. It is almost too good for the public it is written for and the money it has to

⁸⁴ Henry Thompson, who was an honorary secretary of the Pathological Society of London (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

⁸⁵ Francis St. John Thackeray.

⁸⁶ *Hamlet*, V, i, 266.

earn. How you, the contributors, and the publishers are to be paid out of it is economically inconceivable! I send you some verses⁸⁷ as you desired; I should like to see a proof at No. 16 U. B. Street, W., whenever you think fit to use them.

I like the Leigh Hunt⁸⁸ very particularly. I heartily wish you would employ Macdonald,⁸⁹ the author of "Phantastes" and "Within and Without." He is a man of very fine fancy, high education, and good taste. He would write you some poetical prose that would be sure to be good. The old Premier⁹⁰ here looks so hearty, I believe he would write you an article if you asked him. He sat five hours at the farmers' dinner at Romsey, and then they said "looked quite disappointed to have to go."

I am, yours ever,
R. M. Milnes.

1435.

TO SAMUEL LUCAS⁹¹

1859

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Lucas —

Milnes says he has got a poem printed in America but not here — will that do for you? Scarcely I suppose for the first number.

I did not consider myself authorized to mention Tennyson, whose name might have induced the other bard to sing like-

⁸⁷ "Unspoken Dialogue," *Cornhill Magazine*, February, 1860, pp. 194-197.

⁸⁸ "A Man of Letters of the Last Generation," *Cornhill Magazine*, January, 1860, pp. 85-95.

⁸⁹ George MacDonald (1824-1905), author of *Within and Without. A Poem* (1855), *Phantastes: A Faerie Romance for Men and Women* (1858), and many other poems and novels.

⁹⁰ Lord Palmerston, Prime Minister from 1859 to 1865, at whose country seat Milnes was staying.

⁹¹ A minor Victorian journalist (1818-1868) who was for some years literary reviewer for *The Times*. He appears from this letter to have been employed by Smith, Elder during the months when the first number of *The Cornhill Magazine* was in preparation.

wise. Forster will try to prevent Tennyson from writing for you: if I'm not mistaken.

Yours

W M T.

1436.

TO WILLIAM ALLINGHAM

4 JANUARY 1860

My text is taken from *Letters to William Allingham*, p. 282.

36 Onslow Square, S. W.,
January 4, 1860.

My dear Allingham, — Your note arrived when I was at Paris.

In reply I beg, Sir, to refer you to the yellow cover of *The Virginians*: on which two gentlemen are represented in an attitude¹ which I trust will always be maintained between you and — Yours,

W. M. T.

1437.

FROM ROBERT BROWNING

17 JANUARY 1860

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from the *Howe Proofs*, p. 403.

Rome, Via del Tritone, 28
Jan. 17. '60.

Dear Thackeray:

Your note proved to be one of the Roundabout papers, — reaching us after a stoppage in Florence, besides: and now it is here, we feel embarrassed by everything but your kindness in the matter — for, what do you think? On this table are two other requests from Editors to try our luck & test their liberality. As for me, I really know exactly the way to treat such compliments as they deserve, & yet do the Editor no harm, — have so often taken it, indeed, in my capacity of *pianiste* when pressed to contribute to the enjoyment of an evening-party — but my wife's performances have a different effect & need cause nobody to repent of their good

¹ Shaking hands.

nature. May we have it *so* — that if she finds herself at any time provided with what is likely to suit your book, she may send it & be sure of the most benignant inclination of your brow?

In whatever the event, take our truest thanks & best wishes. We received the extravagant gift of two copies, — or was the publisher's intent that we should not fight for *first read*?

Give our kind regards to your Daughters and tell them the boy, they & you were so good to, rides like a man.

Ever yours faithfully,
Robert Browning

1438.

TO GEORGE SMITH

23 JANUARY 1860

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

January 23.

My dear S.

I was on my back yesterday treating myself for my old malady and unable to move, and remembered too late that 'the enclosed' from Merivale was not enclosed at all. Here it is. You have the pull over me in the argument, that you have read the paper, and I have not.

BUT it is written by an eminent scholar and practised writer, whose works are received with welcome by the old reviews; and I should have accepted it, as you have accepted others, upon the character of the author.

We agreed that both of us should have a veto upon articles, and in this case I can't complain if you exercise yours. We shall lose Merivale. I am sorry.

Colonel Fuller's book about England I read and found hopelessly dull. Papers from him about France would be no good. Life in Louisiana would be dull from his pen, and he is committed to Slave-advocacy which is not our side at all.

Yours,
W. M. T.

1439. TO KATE PERRY AND MRS. CRAWFURD? ²

26 JANUARY 1860

My text is taken from a facsimile in a Sotheby catalogue, May 28-30, 1934.



Athenæum. Thursday. 26 Jan. 1860 5 p. m.

Ladies

This is the present attitude of your elderly brother; and the title of the elegant work w^h he is reading is *Les Victimes de l'Amour*.

Yours affectionately
J. Crawford.

² Horatia Perry, the sister of Kate and of Mrs. Elliot, married Walter Crawford. John Crawford (1783-1868), F. R. S., a distinguished Indian civil servant and geographer, appears to have been her brother-in-law.

1440. TO THE REV. SAMUEL REYNOLDS HOLE³26 JANUARY 1860?⁴Published in Hole's *Memories* (London, 1892), p. 83.

January 26.

36 Onslow Sq^e

My dear Hole

Did I ever write and comply with your desire — To have a page of autograph? You're welcome to a quire. Tell your friend the lady⁵ I have no pleasure higher than in writing pretty poetry and striking of the lyre in compliment to a gentleman whom benevolence did inspire to send me pheasants and partridges killed with a shot or wire (but whatever the way of killing them I equally admire) and who of such kind practices I trust will never tire. May you bring your birds down every time you fire This, my noble sportsman, is the fond desire of W. M. Thackeray Editor and Esquire.

³ Hole (1819–1904) was Vicar of Caunton from 1850 until 1887, when he became Dean of Rochester. An able clergyman and an agreeable writer who was passionately fond of hunting, he was intimate with that other ardent sportsman John Leech, at whose home he first met Thackeray. "He arrived in high good humour," writes Hole (*Memories*, pp. 78–79), "and with a bright smile on his face. I was introduced by our host, and for his sake he gave me a cordial greeting. 'We must be about the same height,' he said; 'we'll measure.' And when, as we stood *dos-a-dos*, and the bystanders gave their verdict, 'a dead heat' (the length was six feet three inches), and I had meekly suggested 'that though there might be no difference in the size of the cases, his contained a Stradivarius, and mine a dancing-master's kit,' we proceeded to talk of giants. . . . As we were conversing, Leech's boy entered the room, and was immediately welcomed by Thackeray with 'Come here, my young friend. You're my godson. Come here and be tipped.' " In the last years of his life Thackeray saw much of his new friend, than whom he had no more faithful admirer. See *Memories of Dean Hole*, pp. 79–85.

⁴ It seems likely that this note was written in 1860. In the following years Thackeray would not have bothered to mention his editorship.

⁵ Mrs. Mansfield Parkyns, one of Hole's parishoners at Caunton.

1441. TO THE REV. ALEXANDER MAC EWEN ⁶

7 FEBRUARY 1860

Address: A. McEwen Esq^e | Parsick | Glasgow. *Postmark:* FE 8 1860.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

Feb. 7. 1860.

Sir

I ought earlier to have acknowledged your note of the 27th I will bear the subject of it in mind and if I can see a prospect of success in the course you propose will gladly adopt it. But to fail would be much worse than not to attempt at all, and I very much fear we should not get up a satisfactory response to our appeal

Your obtd Serv^t

W M Thackeray

⁶ MacEwen (1822-1875) was minister of the Claremont United Presbyterian Church in Glasgow from 1856 until his death.

1442.

FROM SIR EDWIN LANDSEER

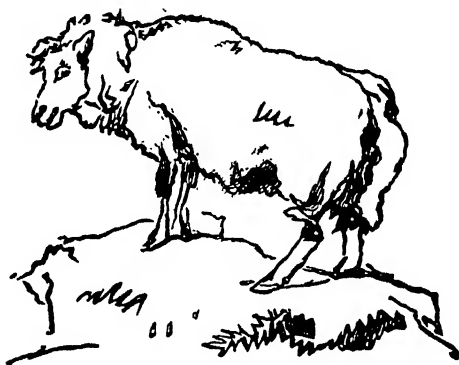
20 FEBRUARY 1860

Published by Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 8. My text is taken from a facsimile in *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xxvi-xxvii.

Monday 20 Feb

My dear Thackeray

Old Rams look wicked sometimes, *Sheep* usually *innocent*
What am I to do? If you will let me know what kind of sheep



you really want I will do my best to illustrate a page for *the mag*



Yours sincerely,
E. Landseer.

1443.

TO HENRY THOMPSON
FEBRUARY? 1860⁷

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, xxxvi.

The leg is found.

W. M. T.

1444.

TO GEORGE SMITH
MARCH 1860

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, xli-xlii.

My dear S. — You will see by the annexed that Landseer⁸ is a worthy and grateful Knight.

Along with him comes a paper by Oliphant⁹ 'Campaigning in

⁷ "Before the *Cornhill* came out," Sir Henry Thompson wrote to Lady Ritchie (*Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, xxxvi-xxxvii), "your father told me that he intended to develop a new principle — that he thought every man, whatever his profession, might be able to tell something about it which no one else could say, provided the writer could write at all: and he wanted to utilize this element. 'So,' said he, 'I want you to describe cutting off a leg as a surgical operation, and do it so that a ship's captain at sea, who had not a doctor on board, would be able to take a sailor's leg off by reading your description.' Having heard in a letter from your father signed 'Yours in trouble', that the article was lost, I was very glad to learn by an envelope addressed to me with the following words, 'The leg is found. W. M. T.' that the manuscript had come to light. The article finally appeared [in *The Cornhill Magazine* of April, 1860, pp. 499-504] with a new title. When your father had read it, it struck him that the paper he had asked for might be somewhat painful, so he wrapped it up in something sweet for the British public to take, and called it 'Under Chloroform.' I had brought the anaesthesia to the front for the same purpose."

⁸ No doubt Landseer's drawing of a black sheep, reproduced beneath the initial letter to chapter 4 of *Lovel the Widower*, *Cornhill Magazine*, April, 1860.

⁹ Laurence Oliphant (1829-1888), novelist and special correspondent of *The Times*, was private secretary to Lord Elgin in China from 1857 to 1859. His "Campaigning in China" appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* of May, 1860. Later in the year he visited Italy, where he met Cavour and plotted with Garibaldi.

China,' which I should like to use as we may have another valuable paper by the same hand about Savoy, and secret negotiations there which may make folks' hair stand on end. He is going to Savoy straightway.

Higgins will write a telling article about Public Schools ¹⁰ from the man-of-the-world point of view, dealing with expenses and so forth, and asking why gentlemen's schools and education are not improved now that so much is done for schools of lower degree? The philosophical part of the question might be treated by others afterwards.

I am getting on with Lovel ¹¹ and hope to astonish you by its speedy completion.

Always yours,
W. M. T.

1445.

TO C. W. JONES

6 MARCH 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36, Onslow Sq. London.
March 6, 1860.

Dear Sir,

I am glad that the receipts of the Lecture leave a small overplus to cover your expenses. My Bankers are Sir John Lubbock & Co. Will you have the kindness to forward me a cheque crossed to them and believe me

Your very faithful servant
W M Thackeray.

C. W. Jones Esq

¹⁰ "Paterfamilias to the Editor of the 'Cornhill Magazine' ", *Cornhill Magazine*, May, 1860.

¹¹ Presumably chapter 5 for May.

1446.

TO SIR EDWIN LANDSEER

MARCH 1860¹²*Address:* Edwin Landseer. Hitherto unpublished.

Black Sheep Black Sheep Have you any Wool?
 Yes, of course I have, you stoopid old Fool.
 'Black Sheep, black Sheep, Will you come and dine?
 'Wery homely wictuals, wery decent wine.
 If you'll come and try-'em on Saturday the Tenth
 My master vill velcome you vith all his soul and strenth.
 Saturday the Ten^h is the day vich ve fix
 Vich my little number is number Thirty Six.

I'll send tomorrow.

¹² This note was written a few days before Saturday, March 10.

1447.

TO GEORGE SMITH

8 MARCH 1860

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, 1-li.

March 8, 1860

I have taken at last the house on Kensington Palace Green,¹³ in which I hope the history of Queen Anne¹⁴ will be written by yours always,

W. M. T.

[1448. See No. 1496A.]

1449.

TO SIR EDWIN LANDSEER

13 MARCH 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

March 13.

You cant work after 7.30 can you? And will you at that hour on Thursday 22 come dine with

Your obleeged

W M Thackeray.

In the number of the C H w^h will contain a fine vignette of a Black Sheep: there will be a few words about Leslie¹⁵ (introduced apropos of another subject) w^h I hope will please you.

¹³ We learn from Lady Ritchie (*Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, li) that "the old house which [Thackeray] had intended to alter and to live in was found to be tumbling to pieces and not safe to knock about. After some demur it was pulled down, and the Queen Anne building was erected, in which he took so much pleasure." Thackeray moved into 2 Palace Green, Kensington, on March 31, 1862. See Appendix XXIII.

¹⁴ See above, No. 626, note 171.

¹⁵ In the opening paragraph of "The Last Sketch" (*Works*, XII, 186-187), Thackeray's introduction to a fragment of a story by Charlotte Brontë published in *The Cornhill Magazine*, April, 1860.

1450. TO HENRY THOMAS BUCKLE ¹⁶
15 MARCH 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

March 15. 36 O. Sq^{re}

Dear Buckle

It is agreed. I am yours for Wednesday. You are mine for Thursday. But I cannot give you such a feast as Lucullus prepares for us. Can you? I hope you do rather.

Always yours
W M Thackeray

The fault of the delay is here & not at the Post Office. I am wofully irregular about my papers: and have an Irish amanuensis who is *woefullier* so.

1451. FROM SIR EDWIN LANDSEER
18 MARCH 1860

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 8.

March 18, 1860.

Dear Thackeray, — My used-up old pencil worked with friendly gladness for an old friend, and was richly rewarded by the reception you gave the black sheep. I now feel under an avalanche which really embarrasses me. The magnificent gift now before me so startled me that a state of prostration has set in with its usual severity! It is from your large heart the pretty ewer comes.

¹⁶ On February 9, 1860, Thackeray dined with Buckle (1821–1862), who was already famous through the first volume of his *History of Civilization in England* (1857), at the home of their common friend Priaulx. On the following day Buckle lent Thackeray a copy of Comte Arthur Auguste Beugnot's *Histoire de la destruction du paganisme en Occident* (1835) from his magnificent library. (Alfred Henry Huth, *Life and Writings of Henry Thomas Buckle*, New York, 1880, p. 292) The delay of which Thackeray writes no doubt occurred in returning this book.

182

TO ADELAIDE PROCTER

1860

I am willing to believe, and do hope that you never intended me to feel under obligation; some such feeling mingles with my thanks. Spite of which I shall always have great pleasure in the bottle, which is in perfect taste, quite lovely. Only I do feel ashamed of accepting anything so precious for a speck of scribbling done in neighbourly eagerness for a good fellow, with whom I am proud to share a page. What am I, or you, to say to Messrs. Smith & Elder? The impression of our vignette comes very well, nicely engraved.

My dear Thackeray, faithfully and sincerely yours,

E. Landseer.

1452.

TO ADELAIDE PROCTER

MARCH 1860

My text is taken from *The Memories of Dean Hole*, p. 84, where the drawing reproduced on the opposite page appears in facsimile.

The Editor of the Cornhill Magazine presents his compliments to the Author of the Carver's Lesson²¹ and requests the honor of her company at dinner on Thursday 22. March. at 7.30. to meet her Mamma.

²¹ Published in *The Cornhill Magazine*, May, 1860, p. 560.



THE CARVER'S LESSON

The Editor of the Cornhill Magazine presents her
 compliments to the Author of the Carver's Lesson and
 requests the honor of her company at dinner on Thursday
 22. March. at 7.30. to meet her. *Mamma.*

1453.

FROM THOMAS HOOD

31 MARCH 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday, 31st

My dear Mr Thackeray.

I have sent off by this post a short essay, with an initial letter, which I hope will be held admissible for the Cornhill. Every number delights me more than its predecessor — with an Essay without End I am very much struck. As for the illustrations Millais' last is very fine, and Sir Edwin's Black Sheep is really a *Capital* letter. As for the first illustration it is from a pencil that I admired when a boy as illustrating the Fat Contributor, and which though the Critics say it has mightily progressed lately will never to my mind be able to surpass the Pendennis pictures, or the Irish Sketches. I am pleased to hear from Lady Molesworth that she comes to Pencarrow on Monday — when she was last here she spoke of your probable visit — I hope you will come down now and have a peep at our Cornish Lent-lilies & violets.

If the "Remarkable Dream" be not suitable for the Cornhill may I trespass on your kindness by asking its return.

I am going to trespass still more on your kindness by a request which I am obliged to make because I have tried to obtain the pamphlet it refers to everywhere & have failed — It is the pamphlet Concerning Thunder and Small Beer, which I have long wished to obtain — for I think that is almost the only one of your acknowledged works which I have not read — and re-read — not to mention unacknowledged ones, which I have recognised, just as a port wine-drinker detects the flavor of the '37 vintage whatever be the cut of the decanter that contains it.

Believing that if you have a spare copy by you, you will kindly make me the happy possessor of it, I remain

Yours very truly
Tom Hood

1454.

FROM MRS. BROWNING

13 APRIL 1860

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from *Howe Proofs*, p. 404.

Dear Mr. Thackeray,

You asked me too long ago for a contribution to your magazine — too long ago in every sense perhaps — for here is my husband who suggests that, being in very ill odour with you all in England just now (scarcely bettered by a misstatement in the *Athenæum*) I may not be welcome between the wind²² & your nobility at Cornhill.

But in that case you will return my verses enclosed, & no harm will be done — if indeed it is no harm to send love to dear Annie & Minnie, whom I never forget —

Yes, — and don't I remember Mr. Thackeray's kindness to little Penini? — who grows big, & is learning Latin, & riding a poney, & is not much changed otherwise.

With my husband's regards, I remain,

Most sincerely yours

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

28, Via del Tritone

Rome — April 13 —

where we shall be till the end of May — then we return to Florence.

1455.

TO GEORGE SMITH

APRIL 1860

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, xlii.

I wrote to ask if Landseer was disengaged, and here²³ is the

²² The *Howe Proofs* read *mind*, but Mrs. Browning is obviously echoing *I Henry IV*, I, iii, 45.

²³ "Dear T. — The Black Sheep will be most happy to cut the Cornhill mutton on the day kindly proposed.

Yours truly,

April 25, 1860.

E. L."

1860

TO SIR HENRY DAVISON

185

Knight's reply. Send him a card please to remind. I've not heard from Leighton;²⁴ have you?

1456.

TO THORNTON HUNT? ²⁵

29 APRIL 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 O. Sq.
April 29.

Can you air the Order of Britannia project ²⁶ in the Telegraph? *
I am sure such an order would be most popular in the Mercantile &
I don't see you not in the Royal Navy.

Yours W M T.

* The last article in the Cornhill.

1457.

TO SIR HENRY DAVISON

4 MAY 1860

My text is taken from Francis Thackeray, *Temple Bar*, July, 1893, p. 377.

4 May.

How dy do, my dear old Davus? Read the Cornhill Magazine for May; the article Little Scholars is by my dear old fat Anny. She sends you her love, so does Minny. We're going out to drive. We've got two hosses in our carriage now. The Magazine goes on increasing, and how much do you think my next twelve months' earnings and receipts will be if I work? £10,000. Cockadoodle-oodloodle. We are going to spend 4,000 in building a new house on Palace Green, Kensington. We have our health. We have

²⁴ Frederic Leighton (1830-1896), later (1896) first Baron Leighton of Stretton, the painter.

²⁵ Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* from 1855 to 1872.

²⁶ See "On Ribbons" (*Works*, XII, 200-201), which was published in *The Cornhill Magazine*, May, 1860, pp. 631-640.

brought Granny and G. P. to live at Brompton Crescent,²⁷ close by us, and we are my dear old Davus's

Faithful,

W. M. A. I. & H. M. T.

1458.

TO THE BISHOP OF ST. DAVIDS

18 MAY 1860²⁸

Published by John Connop Thirlwall Jr., *Connop Thirlwall* (London, 1936), pp. 152-153. My text is taken from a photostat in the Columbia University Library.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W. Friday

My dear Lord Bishop

Ought I to thank you for speaking so kindly of me on Wednesday? My mother and daughters I am sure do, and are proud to have your good opinion. That is among the prizes w^h have lately fallen to men of my calling — to have the goodwill and appreciation of men like you. Think of poor Smollett (an honest hard-working man) dying a pauper at Leghorn; of Fielding leaving England without a friend to shake him by the hand; & of poor Goldsmith's dismal end. I'm afraid the last two were dishonest about money: but what a blessed difference between their time and our's! I for one am rather ashamed of my luck. Some of us

²⁷ "My grandmother," writes Lady Ritchie (*Biographical Introductions*, XII, xv), "lived for a couple of years in Brompton Crescent, and remained there until my grandfather's death, when she came home to us. My father paid her a daily visit on his way into town."

²⁸ Connop Thirlwall, Bishop of St. Davids, served as chairman at the dinner of the Literary Fund on Wednesday, May 16, 1860. During the course of his speech on that evening he said: "Think of our admirable friend Mr. Thackeray. I am sorry that I cannot ask you to look at him. We must all deplore his absence on this occasion; but see, what an immense amount of ecclesiastical patronage he has at his disposal! What a number of sees *in partibus* are in his exclusive nomination. I have never been ambitious of being translated to any of them, but I believe there are few clergymen to whom it can be a matter of indifference what position they occupy in Mr. Thackeray's books." (*Letters Literary and Theological of Connop Thirlwall*, ed. by the Revs. J. J. Stewart Perowne and Louis Stokes, 2 vols., London, 1881, I, 241-242)

are paid like tenor opera-singers: and I hang down my head when I hear of a scholar toiling for bread, whilst Fortune has put such a heap of butter on mine. I must bear the inequality without repining however; and now if I could but get that laudable virtue of the other Thackerays, the resolute saving and getting of money: how respected I should be in the family! Meanwhile, to have your good will and good word is no small instalment of good fortune. I pray God Almighty I may continue to deserve them; and feel immense thankfulness for the fair hope w^h I have now that I may leave my children a competence and a good name. Let him who stands take heed to be sure . . . Pardon this egotism: it is occasioned by your own extreme kindness and sympathy.

I was annoyed at not being able to come to the dinner (never supposing such sweetmeats were to be served to me for dessert) but I had been confined to my bed for 60 hours before, and was so weak and ill that I could not face the chance of an after-dinner speech. Thank you for your's and believe me

Your very grateful & sincere
W M Thackeray

1459.

FROM THOMAS CARLYLE

24 MAY 1860

My text is taken from *Chapters*, p. 139.

Chelsea, 24th May 1860.

Alas, dear Thackeray, I durst as soon undertake to dance a hornpipe on the top of Bond Steeple, as to eat a white-bait dinner in my present low and lost state! Never in my life was I at such a pass. You are a good brother man; and I am grateful. Pray for me, and still hope for me if you can. — Yours ever,

T. Carlyle.

1460.

FROM THOMAS CARLYLE

26 MAY 1860

My text is taken from *Chapters*, p. 139.

Chelsea, 26th May 1860.

Dear Thackeray, — The thing I contemplated just now (or the nucleus of the thing) was a letter concerning that anecdote about *Fontenoy*. "*Faites feu, Messieurs*," on the part of the English, with answer from the *Gardes Françaises*, "Begin you, gentlemen; wouldn't do such a thing for the world!" My letter is from Lord Charles Hay, Captain of the Scots Fusiliers, main actor in the business; it was sent me last year by Lord Gifford; and I could have made a little story out of it which would have been worth publishing.

But on applying to Lord Gifford, he (what he is himself, I believe, truly sorry for) cannot at present give me permission. So the poor little enterprise falls to nothing again; and I may be said to be in a state of ill-luck just now!

If I ever in the end of this book have life left, you shall have plenty of things. But for the time being I can only answer *de profundis* to the above effect.

Fair wind and full sea to you in this hitherto so successful voyage, for which the omens certainly are on all sides good. Your people do not send me a copy (Since No. I.); but we always draw our purse upon it to the small extent requisite. — Yours ever truly,

T. Carlyle.

1860

TO GEORGE SMITH

189

1461.

TO ERNEST JONES ²⁹

2 JUNE 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.

Saturday June 2.

Dear Sir

I am glad to be able to lend you the money w^h you require, and hope with yourself that your difficulties will only be temporary.

I wonder could you do a Chartist Article? — not opinions — but facts — organizations — imprisonment — personal adventure?

Faithfully yours

W M T.

Put a grey stamp on the cheque. & scrawl any thing on it.

1462.

TO GEORGE SMITH

JUNE? 1860

My text is taken from *Biographical Introductions*, XII, xvii.

My dear S., — I have been lying awake half the night about that paper ³⁰ in a sort of despair; but I think I have found a

²⁹ Jones (1819–1869) was a poet and former Chartist agitator. Thackeray knew him at the Middle Temple, where he was admitted to the bar in 1844, and reported his speech at a Chartist meeting for *The Morning Chronicle* of March 15 1848. See above, No. 457, note 68.

³⁰ “On Screens in Dining Rooms”, published in *The Cornhill Magazine* for August. This essay was Thackeray’s answer to “Echoes from the London Clubs”, which Edmund Yates contributed to *The New York Times* of May 26. “In literary matters we are all alive,” Yates writes, “but the success of the *Cornhill Magazine* is already showing symptoms of being on the wane. That notable periodical went up like a rocket, and is beginning to come down like the stick; it is certain that its first number sold nearly a hundred thousand, and that its second reached seventy thousand, but ever since then it has been declining, and now I should think forty thousand was about the mark. With a less circulation it would not — could not pay, for it receives comparatively few advertisements, and its expenses are enormous. There have been already four tremendously heavy dinner parties given by SMITH, (of SMITH & ELDERS,) at his residence in Gloucester-terrace, at which all the principal

climax dignified and humorous enough at last, Heaven be praised, and that our friend won't sin again. — Yours ever, W. M. T.

contributors have been present. THACKERAY is, of course, the great gun of these banquets, and comes out with the greatest geniality in his power, speaking of G. H. LEWES as 'Mr. BEDE' (Mrs. L. is the author of *Adam Bede*,) and drawing each man out to the extent of his ability. But there is one very funny story which will bear repetition: SMITH, the proprietor of the *Cornhill*, and the host on these occasions, is a very good man of business, but totally unread; his business has been to sell books, not to read them, and he knows little else. On the first occasion of their dining there, THACKERAY remarked to those around him, 'This is a splendid dinner, such an one as CAVE, the bookseller of St. John's Gate, gave to his principal writers when Dr. JOHNSON'S coat was so shabby that he ate his meal behind the screen;' then calling out to his host, who was at the other end of the table, THACKERAY said, 'Mr. SMITH, I hope you've not got JOHNSON there behind that screen?' 'Eh?' said the bibliopole, astonished; 'behind the screen? JOHNSON? God bless my soul, my dear Mr. THACKERAY, there's no person of the name of JOHNSON here, nor any one behind the screen — what on earth do you mean?' A roar of laughter cut him short; poor MR. SMITH had probably never heard of DR. JOHNSON and his screen dinner. . . . The paper called 'Little Scholars,' in the current number [of *The Cornhill Magazine*], was written by THACKERAY'S eldest daughter — her first attempt at literary composition; it is pretty, but bears traces of being touched up by the parental hand, — as THACKERAY himself once said to PETER CUNNINGHAM, who was proudly pointing to some anonymous article as his writing: 'Ah! I thought I recognized your *hoof* in it!'"

This gossip was given circulation among English readers by an article in *The Saturday Review* of June 23 (pp. 799-800), the avowed purpose of which was to reprove the license of American journalism. Yates's personalities about Thackeray and Smith were reprinted, "because it is impossible otherwise to estimate what we should come to here if society and the higher portion of the press did not constantly keep newspaper gossip in decent bounds." There can be no question that the editors of *The Saturday Review*, whose consistent hostility to Thackeray Professor Wells has demonstrated in the notes to his edition of *The Roundabout Papers* (see particularly pp. 361-362), took a malign pleasure in spreading Yates's slanders under the pretence of upholding journalistic morality.

Any doubts that Thackeray may have had as to the identity of the writer in *The New York Times* was dispelled when Trollope confessed to Smith that he had given Yates the information on which his description of the contributors' dinner was founded. Urged particularly by Mrs. Smith, who was much disturbed by Yates's sneer at her husband, Thackeray wrote "On Screens in Dining Rooms", in which he reproved his old enemy for scandal-mongering and took *The Saturday Review* to task for tale-bearing. See *George Smith*, pp. 120-121.

1463.

TO SAMUEL ALLIBONE ³¹

8 JULY 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Square. S. W. London.

July 8. 1860.

Dear Sir

I think I am bound to tell you in reply to your present of last year, and to several notes w^h I have since received that the cause of my silence regarding the Dictionary was an idea that the Author intended to publish my note among the testimonials favorable to his work. And though I might have a very high opinion of the book, it seemed to me unfair that this opinion should be in a manner demanded from me in return for a present w^h I had not solicited. In the only *public* way in w^h it was in my power to notice the Dictionary of Authors I did so, in a brief note appended to an article on Washington Irving in the Corn Hill Magazine.³²

I have since had the pleasure of conversing with a mutual friend, M^r Winthrop of Boston, and I am sure I break no confidence in saying that his account of you was so friendly, so highly creditable to your character of gentleman and man of letters — that I felt anxious to explain to you how and why it is, I thought it my duty to be silent when thanks were assuredly deserved and would have been pleasant and easy.

After my taciturnity I shan't expect the good luck of the present of the second volume, and frankly say that I intend to buy it. I hope you may live to complete it with the fullness & accuracy w^h, as far as I have looked into it marks Volume I. And when you come to the T's there is an author (whose lax morality you repre-

³¹ An American scholar and librarian (1816–1889), who is remembered for his *Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors*, 3 vols. (Philadelphia, 1858–1871).

³² In a footnote to "Nil Nisi Bonum", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine*, February, 1860, p. 129, Thackeray mentions "the most remarkable *Dictionary of Authors*, published lately at Philadelphia, by Mr. Alibone."

hend—v. Fielding. Henry.) ³³ who believes that your wish is to speak justly of all authors, who admires your industry very much and who is

Your obliged faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

1464.

TO HENRY C. PENWELL ³⁴

10 JULY 1860

Address: H. C. Pennell Esq^{re} | Admiralty. | Whitehall. *Postmark:* LONDON JY 10 60. Hitherto unpublished.

Sir I regret that the enclosed clever verses will not suit us: but I am too old-fashioned to let rhymes like 'wrath' & 'North' appear in our Magazine. Your obliged Serv^t W M Thackeray.

1465.

TO WILLIAM DUER ROBINSON

11 JULY 1860

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 10.

36 Onslow Sq^t S. W. July 11. 1860

My dear W. D.:—This will be handed to you by my young friend Mr. Gore ³⁵ son of Mrs. Gore, who is going to Bluenosia to look after property left by his *loyalist ancestors*—this will be a recommendation to him with somebody whose name I shall

³³ To Allibone's mind the apology offered for Fielding's "loose manners and dissipated habits" in Thackeray's *English Humourists* is indefensible. "We have often listened with pleasure—indeed, with edification—to Mr. Thackeray's moral reflections upon the Lives and Works of the departed great, but we soon found that the summing up of the learned judge leaned not always 'to virtue's side;' and if the literary offender happened to be a three-bottle man, we entertained no apprehensions for his safety, and felt quite confident that a gentle rebuke, hardly calculated to depopulate the tables of Lucullus, would be the extent of his punishment." (*Critical Dictionary*, I, 592)

³⁴ Chief Clerk of the Naval Department of the Admiralty (*London Directory*, 1862).

³⁵ Captain Augustus Wentworth Gore, one of Mrs. Gore's two surviving children.

write presently on an envelope. Gore has been in India with his regiment and served there like a man. He is also as you will see one of the Crem-ornaments of our young society. Please show him what you think pretty and profitable for him at New York, of w^h I never think without a wish to see my trusty kind old W. D. Think of a letter to *You!* going to N. York & coming back to me! ³⁶ Was n't it too bad? It was a stupid letter, but dull or lively, I am always WD's WT.

1466.

TO ROBERT DALE OWEN ³⁷

18 JULY 1860

Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: Robt Dale Owen.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

July 18. 1860.

Dear Sir

The little article ³⁸ is printed, and contains only the private experiences of a single observer. I may possibly have another article containing the testimony of another eye witness to the same *séance*. But there I think we shall stop for the present, as — but never mind giving reasons

I shall order your book ³⁹ at the Athenæum and read it without delay.

Believe me very faithfully yours

W M Thackeray

³⁶ This letter has not been preserved.

³⁷ Son (1800–1877) of the famous socialist Robert Owen.

³⁸ Robert Bell's "Stranger than Fiction", which appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine* in August, 1860, pp. 211–224. See below, No. 1471.

³⁹ *Footfalls on the Boundary of another World* (1859), of which Thackeray wrote in *The Cornhill Magazine* of November, 1860, "My dear sir, it will make your hair stand quite refreshingly on end" (*Works*, XII, 244).

1467. TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN
28 JULY 1860

My text is taken from Elwin's *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 240-241.

July 28th, 1860

My dear Primrose, — What is this that I read in the I.L.N. about your laying down the sceptre? ⁴⁰ I have been away in the distant solitudes of Tunbridge Wells, and only came to town for a day, when I read this dismal announcement.

Whether you are a King or a country Primrose, my dear Elwin, you must please remember that I am affectionately * yours,

W. M. Thackeray

* This is rather a strong term, you see, nor do I use it on many occasions, but in this I can't help myself, and when I likes a man I likes him.

1468. TO ADELAIDE PROCTER
JULY 1860

My text is taken from a facsimile in the Grolier Club's *Catalogue of an Exhibition Commemorating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth of William Makepeace Thackeray*, New York, 1912, p. 94. *Endorsed*: Thackeray to A. A. Procter July 1860.

My dear A. Why shouldn't we keep both those pretty poems? ⁴¹ Indeed I dont. know. w^h I like best. I have this minute come up



⁴⁰ It is stated in *The Illustrated London News* of July 28, 1860, that "the editorship of the *Quarterly Review* has changed hands . . . and the learned and acute Mr. Aylwin has laid down the sceptre of command."

⁴¹ "Fate and a Heart" and "Sent to Heaven", which appeared in the September and November issues of *The Cornhill Magazine* for 1860.

from Tunbridge Wells,⁴² and have been staying there a whole week.

Your obedient editor



1469.

TO MRS. GORE
27 AUGUST 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Rock Villa. Tunbridge Wells
August 27.

My dear M^{rs} Gore.

Thank you for your note, to w^h I reply with my usual dilatoriness and brevity. I cant write about Scheffer⁴³ for I dont care

⁴² "‘Tunbridge Toys’ was written in the summer of 1860," Lady Ritchie (*Biographical Introductions*, XII, xvi-xvii) relates, "when we were staying at Turnbridge Wells in an old wooden house at the foot of Mount Ephraim. The drawing-room windows looked across a garden towards the common. ‘De Juventate’ was also written there. I remember my father showing me the manuscript at the time, and as I read it now everything comes back. The grandparents were living in the ground-floor sitting room; we were established overhead, with a couple of puppies, whose antics were the chief events of those peaceful days. The puppies were called Gumbo and Saidie, after the two nigger boys in ‘The Virginians’. Gumbo had a fine time of it, driving vast herds of sheep before him across Rustington Common. Saidie was of a meeker disposition. When we went abroad later in the year, Saidie returned to Onslow Square, and Gumbo was sent away to live with our friends the Synges, a present for . . . Bobby Mistletoe. I cannot help describing here the little story my father told us of Gumbo’s behaviour when they met again on our return from abroad. Gumbo in his black-and-tan coat, was quietly passing the time on the pavement in front of the house in Pimlico, when he saw the hansom-cab driving up the middle of the street with my father inside; and with one wild leap from the curb-stone he sprang into the advancing cab and landed safe on my father’s knees, knocking off his spectacles and licking his face all over." For "Bobby Mistletoe", see below, No. 1473.

⁴³ Henry Scheffer (1798-1862), like his better known brother Ary (1795-1858), was a painter of the French romantic school.

much for him. I think he is a poor genius and draftsman, though a neat workman — Leslie's genius I loved and admired sincerely, and was glad when I heard from the good mans family that they were pleased with my little say about him.⁴⁴ Have you read the Memorials of Hood? ⁴⁵ I may speak about that some day, having read few books w^h have touched me more. All those wonderful puns and jokes & all that sickness and misery — all that genius and that very very scanty reward — I feel ashamed almost of my own luck when I think of his small earnings.

I have my old folks and young folks here at Tunbridge Wells — where it rains sweetly, and where I am as glum as possible. What is this about a Preface to a Certain 'Banker's Wife' ⁴⁶ the author of w^h novel, the girls tell me, hints that I took Colonel Newcome from one of her characters? Half of Colonel Newcome is down stairs now — the other half is in London ⁴⁷ and as for the Banker's wife, Madam, I would have you to know that I have no more read it than I have read Newton's Principia. That is one of the blessings for w^h you, sure, may be thankful; that you read novels. I cant any more, not even those of

Your humble servant to command,
W M Thackeray.

⁴⁴ In "The Last Sketch", *Cornhill Magazine*, April, 1860 (*Works*, XII, 186-187).

⁴⁵ F. F. Broderip and Thomas Hood, Jr., *Memorials of Thomas Hood* (1860). See "On a Joke I once Heard from the late Thomas Hood", *Cornhill Magazine*, December, 1860 (*Works*, XII, 261-270).

⁴⁶ This novel by Mrs. Gore was first published in 1843. The preface to which Thackeray refers appeared in the reissue of 1859.

⁴⁷ "When 'The Newcomes' was coming out," writes David Freemantle Carmichael (Baillie, *Oriental Club and Hanover Square*, p. 75), "I said to Thackeray, 'I see where you got your Colonel.' 'To be sure you would,' he replied, 'only I had to angelicise the old boys a little.' By this he meant, his stepfather, Major Henry Carmichael-Smyth, and his younger brother, General Charles Carmichael."

1470.

TO WILLIAM S. WILLIAMS

27 AUGUST 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Rock Villa. Tunbridge Wells

27 August.

My dear M^r Williams.

I think M^{rs} Browning is quite good enough for us and has some very fine lines ⁴⁸ — but Peter Cunningham wont do at all.

I read and had at home M^r Hoods 2 articles 'A Very Singular Dream', and a 'Lay Sermon', with the latter was a block. Did the papers go back to CornHill? If not will you please have this sentence copied and sent to M^r Langley 36 Onslow Sq^r — and tell him to find the papers and take them to M^r Hood. I suppose from M^r Smith's note that he wrote to M^r H. about his poems.⁴⁹

I fear greatly D^r Doran ⁵⁰ won't do.

Yours very truly

W M Thackeray.

⁴⁸ Mrs. Browning's contribution was "A Forced Recruit at Solferino", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for October, 1860, pp. 419-420. Neither of Hood's articles was published.

⁴⁹ Hood wished to republish the poems which he had contributed to *The Cornhill Magazine*, a proceeding contrary to Smith's policy.

⁵⁰ John Doran (1807-1878), a miscellaneous writer who served on the staff of the *Athenæum*, a magazine which he later (1869-1870) edited.

1471.

TO ROBERT BELL
AUGUST 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

The angel Gabriel presents his compliments to M^r Bell and sends him the likeness of the spirit who stood the watch.⁵¹



⁵¹ "Il y a quelques années," writes Louis Blanc (*Lettres sur l'Angleterre, II^e Série*, Paris, 1866, II, 253-25); "les journaux de Londres annoncèrent qu'un Français, dont il est inutile que je vous dise le nom [Blanc himself], allait donner en anglais, dans le quartier de Saint-John's Wood, ce qu'on appelle ici une *lecture*. Au nombre de ceux qui, mus par un sentiment de bienveillance délicate et de curiosité hospitalière, songèrent à aller l'encourager de leur présence, Thackeray fut des plus empressés. La lecture finie, l'administrateur (*manager*) de l'institution littéraire de l'endroit crut devoir, je ne sais à quel propos, recommander aux assistants de ne pas sortir sans prendre garde à leurs poches, la foule étant très-serrée aux portes. Cette recommandation, adressée à un auditoire composé de personnes très-respectables, dont quelques-unes très-distinguées, fit un fort mauvais effet.

"Il y en eut qui réclamèrent, et nul n'éleva la voix avec plus d'éloquente

1472. TO WILLIAM SMITH WILLIAMS
AUGUST? 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

65, Cornhill.
London,
E. C.

Dear M^r Williams

I suspect you are at Taffy's house, whilst he is at your's. Please to send this drawing to Swaine⁵² for the Roundabout wh^h I now

vivacité qu'un inconnu très-bien couvert, qui était assis à côté de M. Robert Bell. Non content de parler, l'inconnu gesticulait, et cela d'une manière étrangement animée: 'N'est-ce pas, monsieur, disait-il à M. Bell, qu'un pareil avis est indécent, insultant?' Pour qui nous prend-on? etc. . . , etc. . . , etc. . . ' Après avoir exhalé de la sorte son indignation, le susceptible inconnu s'éclipsa; et lorsque M. Robert Bell, voulant savoir combien de temps la *lecture* avait duré, consulta sa montre, il se trouva qu'elle lui avait été volée. Thackeray apprit de son excellent ami Robert Bell, séance tenante, cette triste aventure, et l'invita à dîner pour un des jours suivants. Le jour venu, autour d'une table égayée par la présence de plusieurs hommes d'esprit, M. Robert Bell alla prendre place, et ne tarda pas à avoir un joyeux assaut à soutenir relativement à un article de lui, très-remarqué et très-remarquable, qui avait paru dans le *Cornhill Magazine*, alors sous la direction de M. Thackeray, — article contenant un exposé fidèle, sérieux et philosophique des faits de *spiritisme*, dont l'auteur avait été témoin dans une séance donnée par M. Home. M. Robert Bell est un admirable causeur, plein de bon sens britannique et de verve irlandaise. Les questionneurs trouvèrent donc à qui parler, et chacun fit merveille. Le lendemain, un messenger mystérieux arrive chez M. Robert Bell, et lui remet sans pouvoir dire qui l'envoie, une boîte dans laquelle était un billet ainsi conçu ou à peu près: 'Les esprits présentent leurs compliments à Robert Bell, et, pour lui témoigner leur gratitude, ils ont l'honneur de lui faire tenir la montre qu'on lui a volée.' C'était effectivement une montre que la boîte contenait, mais une montre beaucoup plus riche que celle qui avait disparu.

"M. Robert Bell pensa tout de suite à Thackeray et lui écrivit, sans s'expliquer davantage: 'Je ne sais si c'est vous . . . Mais cela vous ressemble bien!'" Thackeray's reply was the note printed above.

Thackeray appended to "Stranger than Fiction," Bell's *Cornhill* article, a note vouching for the "good faith and honourable character of our correspondent, a friend of twenty-five years' standing." Bell's continued interest in the occult is testified by "Spiritualism", an article which he wrote for *The Cornhill Magazine* of June, 1863, pp. 706-719.

⁵² Joseph Swain, manager of the engraving department of *Punch* from

send. 2 other designs will be also sent for it — and a letter if it is used, as a paper by itself. If printed along with the other no initial will be wanted and the paper can be called *De juventute*.⁵³

Send me a proof if poss of George & the Dragon by to nights post to Tunbridge Wells.

1473.

TO LORD ?

1 SEPTEMBER 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.

September 1. 1860.

My Lord

Hearing that a considerable addition is speedily to be made to the number of Foundation-Boys at Charter House, I take leave as an old Carthusian to address your Lordship, & beg you if not engaged to give your nomination to the son⁵⁴ of my old friend W. Follett Synge Esq^r of the Foreign Office.

M^r Synge has just returned from Central America whither he went as Secretary to Sir Gore Ouseley's Mission.⁵⁵ His character and services can be authenticated by all his chiefs. His boy (7 years old) is the eldest of many children. I entreat your good offices for the little boy as a most worthy candidate for the benefits of our school and am

Your lordships very humble Serv^t

W M Thackeray.

1843 to 1890, who had a large corps of assistants and did much work for other magazines.

⁵³ Published in *The Cornhill Magazine* for October, 1860.

⁵⁴ Robert Follett Synge (b. 1853), the "Bobby Mistletoe" of "Round About the Christmas Tree" (*Works*, XII, 271-278), who entered Charterhouse in 1865.

⁵⁵ Synge was made Secretary to the special mission to Central America of Sir William Gore Ouseley (1797-1866) in July, 1858 (*Foreign Office List*, 1859).

1474. TO LADY ELIZABETH THACKERAY
27 SEPTEMBER 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
September 27.

My dear Lady Elizabeth.

Anny has written to tell you how we have been abroad⁵⁶ and only returned on Tuesday night, when first we heard of your affliction.⁵⁷ You have treated me and mine with such kindness and friendliness always, that you may be sure we feel sympathy at anything wh^h causes you pleasure or grief; and at this sad time as at all others I am sure you will believe that I am

Most sincerely yours
W M Thackeray.

1475. TO LORD ?
SEPTEMBER 1860⁵⁸

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^f

My dear Lord. I passed you this moment, as I was on my way to your house (after going to see a poor neighbour of your's in affliction) in order to thank you for your prompt kindness to the little Synge. He is one of ever so many dear little children with the best little mother, and your kind help was never better bestowed than in his case. Thank you again for your goodness and believe me

Your very faithful and obliged
W M Thackeray

⁵⁶ Thackeray's tour on the continent is described in "Notes of a Week's Holiday" (*Works*, XII, 242-260).

⁵⁷ General Thackeray, Lady Thackeray's husband, had died on September 19, 1860.

⁵⁸ This note was written shortly after Thackeray's note of September 27 to Lady Elizabeth Thackeray, who is the "neighbour . . . in affliction."

1476. TO WILLIAM DUER ROBINSON
28 SEPTEMBER 1860

Published in part, *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 10-11.

XXXVI Onslow Sq^r S. W.

28 Sept^r 1860

My dear old W D R. I fancy *you* write anything against me? What next? The culprit was my old friend M^r Yates⁵⁹ who was turned out of the Garrick because after agreeing to submit the difference between us to the Club, he would not consent to the apology w^h they ordered him to make. And in consequence of the last business even Dickens has cut him.⁶⁰ We dont like men writing about our privacies on this side of the water.

And what the dickens has happened to Davis? I found on my return home a notkin beginning 'dear Sir' and enclosing yours. He was here for some time, and never told me he had come. As soon as I heard it, I went to look for him. He never came to look for me. I thought nothing of it, but that he was busy engaged in some tremendous railroad transaction some one told me — too busy to come after me — and went away out of town with my young folks, and my parents, and my Magazine on my back, and my stricture in my bladder, in dreary health, spirits, condition. We had a little trip to Holland from w^h I have just returned — and find your note. Well, surely, I've written since my last letter was sent back I know I have — but that I have sent the letter is another paire de bottes — I find letters lying about weeks & months after and be hanged to me — I not only am lazy in writing 'em, but incorrigibly irregular in sending 'em. I have done those things w^h I ought not to have done I have left undone those things w^h I ought to have done, and there is little health in me.⁶¹

⁵⁹ See above, No. 1462.

⁶⁰ In this Thackeray was mistaken. On September 23 Dickens (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 178-179) wrote Yates a warm letter of condolence on the death of his mother.

⁶¹ "General Confession," *Book of Common Prayer*.

But if I dont write to my friends they'll remember what heaps of letters I have to write and forgive me, wont they? I have a Magazine once a month, a fever attack once a month, the charge of old folks and young folks whom I have to take to the country or arrange for at home — a great deal of business & bad health, and very little order. I offended with my friends? I have been looking out for my dear good Baxters, who wrote in the Spring, and here's winter almost and no sign of 'em.

What news for you? I am making and spending a deal of money have outlived my health, popularity, and inventive faculties as I rather suspect — am building a fine house and wonder whether I shall ever be able to live in it, and am yours my dear Robinson as always.

W. M. T.

1477.

TO GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA
SEPTEMBER? 1860⁶²

My text is taken from Hodder's *Memories of my Time*, p. 367.

Dear S., — No! Who tells these lies? — W. M. T.

⁶² Not long after his last paper on Hogarth appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine*, Sala accepted the editorship of *Temple Bar*. It was rumored, perhaps by Yates, that Thackeray was irritated by his contributor's defection, and Sala accordingly wrote to justify himself. (Hodder, *Memories of my Time*, pp. 366-367) The line printed above is Thackeray's reply. When the first issue of *Temple Bar* was published in December, Thackeray wrote in *The Cornhill Magazine* (p. 760): "Our course has been so prosperous, that it was to be expected other adventurers would sail on it, and accordingly I heard with no surprise, that one of our esteemed companions was about to hoist his flag, and take command of a ship of his own. The wide ocean has room enough for us all."

1478.

TO ?

3 NOVEMBER 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

65, Cornhill,
November 3, 1860.

Sir

The lectures were printed in my absence in America and contain many errors — For Jervas read Richardson — the letter ⁶³ is dated June 10. 1733. My edition is rather a shabby one. the booksellers Edition of 1812. Vol 7. p. 112.

Your obdt Serv^t
W M Thackeray

1479.

TO LADY ELIZABETH THACKERAY

8 NOVEMBER 1860

Address: The Lady Elizabeth Thackeray | The Cedars | Windlesham.
Postmarks: LONDON NO 10 60, BAGSHOT NO 10 60. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
November 8.

My dear Lady Elizabeth.

As ill luck will have it, I have just knocked at the door of the Colonial Office in behalf of an old acquaintance, a Surgeon who wants an appointment in the Colonies. And I could give this gentleman very little hope, because, also as ill luck will have it, I made an unfortunate speech at Edinburgh some years ago, w^h I know was read by the Duke of Newcastle, who had previously

⁶³ Thackeray sent with this note a copy in his secretary's hand of the letter of Pope's which he describes. In the first edition of *The English Humourists* (London, 1853, p. 207) the recipient of this letter is identified as Jervas. Actually Pope was writing to Richardson, as Thackeray's correspondent could have ascertained, had he glanced at the notes to *The English Humourists* where Pope's letter is reprinted.

been particularly kind and friendly to me & who had a right not to be pleased by what I said.⁶⁴ I am a sad blunderer and in a dreadful panic whilst speaking — I omitted the very point w^h I wished to make (and w^h was intended to be a compliment to him and Lord Elgin) and, I fear, justly offended him. He has never said anything to me on the subject; but his manner has not been so cordial to me, as it used to be.

I will go to the Home Office where Waddington the Under Secretary is my friend and see if he can help us — I should think his father's son and yours will be sure of goodwill — You know you have it from your young friends here and

Yours most sincerely always
W M Thackeray.

⁶⁴ Thackeray defended himself against the charge of radicalism that *The Four Georges* had caused to be brought against him at a dinner given by his Edinburgh admirers on April 2, 1857. The Duke of Newcastle, who had been from 1852 to 1854 Secretary for War and Colonies in Lord Aberdeen's cabinet and was again from 1859 to 1864 Secretary for the Colonies in Lord Palmerston's second cabinet, may have been offended by the following passage in Thackeray's speech. "I do not hold any dangerous revolutionary opinions. . . . I belong to the class that I see around me here, the class of lawyers, and merchants, and scholars, and men who are striving on in the world, of men of the educated middle classes of this country. And, belonging to them, my sympathies and my desires are with them. If it happened that we were all here an assembly of noblemen and earls, we should no doubt form a Viscounts' Government, and think it the best of all Governments possible. (Cheers.) If a difficulty arose in China, for instance, we should look for my Lord Duke A. to go out and settle the difficulty, or we should ask Earl B. to go if my Lord Duke A. were not inclined." (*Times*, April 4, 1857) As Thackeray had predicted, the Duke of Newcastle not being available, the eighth Earl of Elgin was appointed Her Majesty's High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary on a Special Mission to the Emperor of China on April 17 (*Foreign Office List*, 1859).

1480. FROM ANTHONY TROLLOPE
15 NOVEMBER 1860

Extracts published by Mr. Parrish, "Adventures in Reading and Collecting Victorian Fiction," *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, III (1942), 39.

Waltham Cross.

November 15, 1860

My dear Thackeray,

I trust you to believe me when I assure you that I feel no annoyance as against you at the rejection of my story.⁶⁵ An impartial Editor must do his duty. Pure morals must be supplied. And the owner of the responsible name must be the index of the purity. A writer for a periodical makes himself subject to this judgement by undertaking such work; and a man who allows himself to be irritated because judgement goes against himself is an ass. So much I say, that I may not be set down by you as disgusted, or angry, or malevolent. But a few words I must say also in defence of my own muse.

I will not allow that I am indecent, and profess that squeamishness — in so far as it is squeamishness and not delicacy — should be disregarded by a writer. I of course look back for examples to justify myself in alluding to a man with illegitimate children, and to the existence of a woman not as pure as she should be. I think first of Effie Deans.⁶⁶ Then coming down to our second modern great gun — Observe how civil I am to you after the injury you have done me — I reflect upon the naughtiness of Miss Beatrice,⁶⁷ all the more naughty in that they are told only by hints; — and also of the very wicked woman at Tunbridge Wells who was so surprised because young Warrington did not "do as others use" with her — I forget whether it was her daughter, or her niece or her protegee.⁶⁸ Then there is that illegitimate brat in Jane Eyre with

⁶⁵ "Mrs. General Talboys," published in *Tales of All Countries. Second Series* (1863).

⁶⁶ In *The Heart of Midlothian*.

⁶⁷ In *Esmond*. See particularly the preface (*Works*, VII, 8).

⁶⁸ See chapter 29 of *The Virginians*.

the whole story of her birth; and Hetty Sorrel⁶⁹ with almost the whole story of how the child was gotten. I could think of no pure English novelist, pure up to the Cornhill standard, except Dickens; but then I remembered *Oliver Twist* and blushed for what my mother and sister read in that very fie-fie story. I have mentioned our five greatest names and feel that I do not approach them in naughtiness any more than I do in genius.

But in such cases, you will say, the impurities rest in the heads of the individual authors, — and that you must especially guard the Cornhill. Well . . . But how have we stood there? History perhaps should be told even to the squeamish, and therefore the improprieties of the improper Georges must be endured. But how about the innuendoes as to the opera dancers⁷⁰ which made the children of Terpsichore so mad thro' the three kingdoms?

You speak of the squeamishness of "our people". Are you not magnanimous enough to feel that you write *urbi et orbi*:⁷¹ — for the best and wisest of English readers; and not mainly for the weakest?

I of course look forward to bringing out my own story in a magazine of my own. It will be called "The Marble Arch", and I trust to confound you by the popularity of Mrs. Talboys.

Joking apart I must declare that I disagree with your criticism. But at the same time I assure you that I am quite satisfied that you have said your own judgement impartially and with thoroughly good intention.

Always yours,
Anthony Trollope.

⁶⁹ In *Adam Bede*.

⁷⁰ See chapter I of *Lovel the Widower* and "Thorns in the Cushion" (*Works*, XII, 214-215).

⁷¹ From the Pope's blessing.

1481.

TO ANTHONY TROLLOPE

17 NOVEMBER 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Nov^r 17. 1860.
36 O. Square

My dear Trollope.

I am just out of bed after one of my attacks, w^h leave me very nervous and incapable of letter writing or almost reading for a day or two. So, as your letter came, and upon a delicate subject too — I told one of the girls to read it.

I give you her very words — I can't help it if they are not more respectful. She says after reading the letter "He is an old dear and you should write him an affectionate letter."

Then I had courage to have your letter read. I am another, am I? I always said so.

'The Marble Arch' is such a good name that I have a months mind to take it for my own story.

Always yours
W M T.

1482.

TO THOMAS COLLEY GRATTAN ⁷²

5 DECEMBER 1860

Address: M. T. C. Grattan. | 30 Place de Meir | a Anvers. *Postmark:* LONDON DE 5 60. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W
Dec^r 5. 1860.

My dear M^r Grattan.

We strongly object to early republications from the Magazine, and this may not suit you. Bearing this in mind, you may be

⁷² A prolific miscellaneous writer (1792–1864), known chiefly for his three series of *Highways and Byways* (1823–1827).

sure any contribution you may send will have the very best attention of

Yours sincerely
W M Thackeray

1483.

TO JOHN SKELTON

14 DECEMBER 1860

My text is taken from Sir John Skelton's *Table Talk of Shirley*, pp. 27-28.

36 Onslow Square, S. W.,
Dec. 14, 1860.

Dear Sir, — I ask pardon for delaying to answer your note. Frequent illness, constant business, and want of system send my letters often deplorably into arrear, and I lose even more time in finding them than in answering them.

Queen Anne has long been my ambition; but she will take many a long year's labour, and I can't ask any other writer to delay on my account. At the beginning of this year I had prepared an announcement stating that I was engaged on that history; but kept it back, as it was necessary that I should pursue my old trade of novelist for some time yet to come. Meanwhile her image stands before St Paul's for all the world to look at, and who knows but some one else may be beforehand with both of us and sketch her off while we are only laying the palette?

Is all your spare time given to *Fraser*, and have you any subject which you think would suit us at Cornhill? I should be glad to have any suggestions from you. —

Truly yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

1484.

FROM JOHN SKELTON

19 DECEMBER 1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Dec. 19. 60.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your note — I am sorry that you mention “illness” — I trust that it is nothing very serious, & that it has now passed away.

Should you try Queen Anne any materials I may then have will be very heartily at your service.

In the meantime I will continue to spend an hour sometimes among the dusty treasures of our Library — which is very rich in political & historical matter.

Since my poor friend John Parker’s death I do not feel so much “engaged” to *Frazer*, & sh^d be happy if any subject offered to do some little thing for you. I have been meditating for some time an article on “Fishing in Scotland & the North” — which perhaps might suit you. The House of Lords has been “sitting” upon our fisheries & has issued a report containing a great deal of curious matter, & one or two rather interesting questions about fishing-rights in the North have been agitated. A *Scotchy* article on this subject, with a little information about some features of our system not much known south of the Tweed, might be made, I think, pleasant & picturesque.

Do not trouble to answer this note, unless you think the subject suitable.

Believe me, with thanks,

Truly yours

John Skelton

1485.

FROM JOHN RUSKIN ⁷³

21 DECEMBER 1860

Published in Lady Ritchie's *Records of Tennyson, Ruskin and Browning* (London, 1893), pp. 159-161.

Denmark Hill

21st December.

1860.

Dear Mr Thackeray.

I think — or should think if I did not know — that you are quite right in this general law about lecturing: though until I knew it, I did not feel able to refuse the letter of request asked of me.

The mode in which you direct your charity puts me in mind of a matter that has lain long on my mind: though I never have had the time — or face — to talk to you of it. In somebody's drawing-room, ages ago, you were speaking accidentally of M. de Marvy. I expressed my great obligations to him: (on) which you said that I (might) now prove my gratitude if I chose — to his widow. Which choice I, not then accepting, — have ever since remembered the circumstance as one peculiarly likely to add — so far as it

⁷³ Though Thackeray and Ruskin were not intimate, they had been in frequent communication for some months past. "In the summer of 1860," Ruskin writes in the preface to *Munera Pulveris* (*Works*, 39 vols., ed. E. T. Cook and A. D. O. Wedderburn, London, 1902-1912, XVII, 143), "perceiving then fully, (as Carlyle had done long before), what distress was about to come on the said populace of Europe through these errors of their teachers [the orthodox political economists], I began to do the best I might, to combat them, in the series of papers for the *Cornhill Magazine*, since published under the title of *Unto this Last*. The editor of the Magazine was my friend, and ventured the insertion of the first three essays [in the issues of August, September, and October]; but the outcry against them became too strong for any editor to endure, and he wrote to me, with great discomfort to himself, and many apologies to me, that the Magazine must only admit one Economical Essay more.

"I made, with his permission, the last one [published in November] longer than the rest, and gave it blunt conclusion as well as I could — and so the book now stands."

went — to the general impression on your mind of the hollowness of peoples sayings — and hardness of their hearts.

The fact is I give what I give almost in an opposite way to yours; I think there are many people who will relieve hopeless distress, for one, who will help at a hopeful pinch; and when I have choice — I nearly always give where I think the money will be Fruitful, rather than merely helpful. I would lecture for a school — when I would *not* for a distressed author: and would have helped de Marvy to perfect his invention, but not — unless I had no other object — his widow after he was gone. In a word, I like to prop the falling — more than to feed the fallen.

This, if you ever find out anything of my private life — you will know to be true; but I shall never feel comfortable, nevertheless about that Marvy business, unless you send to me for ten pounds for the next author, or artist, or widow of either, whom you want to help.

— And with this weight at last off my mind, I pray you to believe me always

Faithfully & respectfully Yours
J Ruskin

All best wishes of the season to you & your daughters.

1486.

TO THE BAXTERS
25 DECEMBER 1860

My text is taken from *American Family*, pp. 168–170

36 Onslow Square, Brompton
Christmas, 1860

The autumn has passed away in which you were to have come to England and here is a bitter cold Christmas day and no news of you. I am unwell. I am hard at work trying to get the new story ⁷⁴ on a head. I have been quill-driving all the morning,

⁷⁴ *Philip*, the first installment of which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for January, 1861.

but I must say a word of God bless you to my dear kind friends at Brown House Street and wish you a Christmas as merry as may be. Aren't you in a fright at the separation? ⁷⁵ Is Sally going to be a country-woman of yours no longer, and will her children in arms fight Libby's? It's a horrible thing to me to read of. Have you ever seen a coloured print called the Belle of the West I have it hanging up because it is like a young woman whom I used to admire very much. (perhaps other little partialities are hung up too and are now only so many painted memorials on a wall) Is it this horrid Separation that has prevented your all coming to Europe. Or are you waiting till next year when my fine new house will be built — at Palace Green, Kensington — opposite the old palace. If I live, please God, I shall write the history of Queen Anne there. My dear relations are furious at my arrogance, extravagance & presumption in building a handsome new house, and one ⁷⁶ of them who never made a joke in his life said yesterday to me "You ought to call it Vanity Fair."

I wonder whom you have got at dinner today? Our house is all hollyfied from bottom to top. We have asked a poor widow from India with her *five* children, and two or 3 men friends, and we have got a delicate feast consisting of

Boiled Turkey

Roast Goose

Roast Beef.

and I am going to make a great bowl of punch in the grand silver bowl you know — the testimonial bowl.

No one has come to marry either of my dear girls. I am surprised they don't. But I hardly know any men under fifty, and cant be on the lookout for eligible bachelors as good dear London mammas can. I have not made their fortunes as yet, but am getting towards it and have saved a little since I wrote last; but

⁷⁵ Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States on November 20, and in protest South Carolina, where Mrs. Hampton was living, adopted an Ordinance of Secession on December 20.

⁷⁶ Charles Carmichael.

I am free-handed, have to keep my wife, to help my parents, & to give to poor literary folks—in fine my expenses are very large. I am supposed to make 10,000£ a year. Write 5 and it is about the mark. Health very soso. Repeated attacks of illness. Great thankfulness to God Almighty for good means, for good children. And thats all. Hadn't I better go on with Philip? Here is the very last sentence I wrote:

“When I was a girl I used always to be reading novels, she said but la! they're mostly nonsense! There's Mr. Pendennis, I wonder how a married man can go on writing about love and all that stuff!”⁷⁷ And indeed it is rather absurd for elderly fingers to be still twanging Don Cupid's toy bow & arrows. Yesterday is gone, yes—but very well remembered. And we think of it the more now we know that Tomorrow is not going to bring us much.

Goodbye my dear Yesterdays. And believe me affectionately yours.

1487.

TO GEORGE SMITH

1860

Hitherto unpublished.

Friday.

My dear S.

Shant we have you for Thursday? We have Milnes, Donnelly, Miss Procter, Landseer Contributors and Buckle—who might do something for us.

Yours

W M T.

⁷⁷ From chapter 6 of *Philip* (*Works*, XI, 156).



THE BELLE OF THE WEST.

"THE BELLE OF THE WEST"

From the Currier Lithograph

1488.

TO GEORGE SMITH

1 JANUARY 1861

My text is taken from George Smith's "Our Birth and Parentage," *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, X (1901), 17.

36 O. S., S. W.: Jan. 1, 1861.

My dear S.,—

H. N. Y. to all Smiths.

I am afraid we can't get Loch.¹ He has been advised not to write except his own book, whatever that may be.

Stephen² can't do anything for Feb.

Wynter³ says he will do Bread.

This is all the present news from

Yours ever,

W. M. T.

¹ Henry Brougham Loch (1827-1900), later (1895) first Baron, who had been imprisoned and tortured by the Chinese in 1860 while private secretary to Lord Elgin on the latter's special mission to China.

² James Fitzjames Stephen (1829-1894), later (1891) first Baronet, took his B. A. degree at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1851 and was called to the bar in 1854. He wrote for *The Saturday Review* from its inception in 1856. He contributed two articles to *The Cornhill Magazine* in 1860 and eight or nine during each of the next three years. "His connection with the 'Magazine,'" writes his younger brother Leslie (*Life of Sir James Fitzjames Stephen*, London and New York, 1895, p. 177), "led to very friendly relations with Thackeray, to whose daughters he afterwards came to hold the relation of an affectionate brother."

³ Dr. Andrew Wynter (1819-1876), editor of *The British Medical Journal* and essayist.

1489.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN
JANUARY 1861⁴

My text is taken from John Skelton's *Table-Talk of Shirley*, p. 30.

The Cornhill Magazine,
Smith, Elder, & Co.

My dear J. B., — I see Mr Skelton has been saying kind things about me in *Fraser*. Is he full of work? Could he do something for [*Here a hand is drawn, pointing to "The Cornhill Magazine" above.*] If you know his address will you send him this line on from yours,

W. M. T.

1490.

TO GEORGE SMITH
JANUARY 1861?⁵

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear S.

Ainsworth who is sitting by me, wants to know about America. What arrangements have we made and with whom? and what would be the best plan for him to adopt?

I'm glad you like Philip. Long life to him

Yours

W M T.

⁴ This note was written shortly after the publication of Skelton's "On the Propriety of Abolishing the Writing of Books" (*Fraser's Magazine*, January, 1861, pp. 92-97), in which there are complimentary allusions to Thackeray.

⁵ It seems likely that this note was written shortly after the publication of the first installment of *Philip* in *The Cornhill Magazine* for January, 1861.

1491.

FROM DR. JOHN BROWN
13 JANUARY 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

23 Rutland Street
Edinburgh
Jan 13th

My dear Thackeray — Thanks for your two notices — short as they are, they let me know, what indeed I did not need to be assured of, that you are what you used to be. There are some people — not many, about whom I never concern myself as to manifestations of what they are. I have settled the matter as to them, & never need to be forever pulling up my plant of friendship to see if it is growing — I send John Skelton your last — & he writes to say how pleased he is & that he will cast about for something for the Cornhill I am ashamed of my shabbinesses to you — but the truth is I must be forced to write — if you were to make your printer Command me to have something ready by a certain day, I would do it but if it is left to my own sweet will — it is left forever — I am thinking of giving you an additional member of “Our Dogs”⁶ Birkie — a real dog — & the best successor I have ever known, to “Crab” “the sourest-natured dog that lives” as his master said —

As to your health — I still think that you might have been materially the better by seeing Syme,⁷ & I am sure Thompson would have been pleased to get his counsel — but as I said there is an end of it — & I am rejoiced at your spasms being better — what a pleasure, a perpetual pleasure it is to me to see & hear everywhere the world’s gratitude & praise to “Theophilus Wagstaff”⁸ — I have been finding out your beginnings in Punch. Miss

⁶ Brown’s sequel to “Our Dogs” was not written for many years. It is reprinted under the title “More of ‘Our Dogs’ ” in the third series of *Horæ Subsecivæ*.

⁷ James Syme (1799–1870), the eminent Edinburgh surgeon.

⁸ Brown evidently means Lancelot Wagstaff, an early pseudonym of Thack-

Tickletobys Lectures & the cuts — more history & philosophy & sense in them than in Mess^{rs} Kingsley Froude & Co⁹ —

I was up two days ago seeing M^{rs} Krum. I cannot help hoping she is a little better & in such a case, one comes to be very grateful for any small mercies — she is happy & sleeps soundly — & enjoys external nature & is full of simple lore & tenderness & though childish in many of her ways — they are the ways of a wise child. About religion, this is especially the case — she seems to have got back to the immediate instincts of a pious nature, with all the depth, experience that her woman life has given her — you would be quite surprised at this. but why do I go on at this ‘rate’? She was speaking of you, & giving such a clear, simple account of how truly she liked such a nature as yours — The lonely place where she is, was when I last was there, resounding with cuckoos — & I asked her if they were gone — “Oh yes & I am very glad — I don’t like that *egotistical* bird” —

Is that house with 3 windows on each side of the door the Kensington Mansion? — Thackeray House? ¹⁰ Goodbye & God bless & keep you & the girls & us all —

Yr ever Affect

J. Brown

eray’s over which he wrote four articles for *The New Monthly Magazine* in 1844 and 1845. “Miss Tickletoby’s Lectures on English History” appeared in *Punch* from July 2 to October 1, 1842.

⁹ Charles Kingsley’s *Westward Ho! or the Voyages and Adventures of Sir Amyas Leigh, Knight, of Burrough, in the County of Devon, in the Reign of her most Glorious Majesty Queen Elizabeth* appeared in 1855, and the first two volumes of James Anthony Froude’s *History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Death of Elizabeth* were published in 1856.

¹⁰ See below, No. 1504.

1492.

TO FREDERICK WALKER ¹¹

21 JANUARY 1861

My text is taken from John George Marks, *Life and Letters of Frederick Walker* (London, 1896), p. 20.

36 Onslow Square, S. W.

Jan. 21, 1861.

Dear Sir, — Can you copy the face on this block ¹² as accurately as may be on to another block, improve the drawing of the figures,

¹¹ Walker (1840–1875), the seventh child of a working jeweller, was born and brought up in London. After three years of study in an architect's office and various drawing academies, he apprenticed himself in 1858 to the wood-engraver Josiah Whymper. By the beginning of 1861 he was proficient not only as an engraver, but also as a painter in water-colors and oils, and he was eager to secure work. He managed with some difficulty to bring his drawings to the attention of George Smith. "It happened just then," Smith relates (Huxley, *House of Smith, Elder*, pp. 142–143), "that Thackeray was beginning to find it troublesome to draw on wood. His last two or three drawings for the 'Adventures of Philip' were made on paper, and these had to be redrawn on wood by an artist, and the result, so far, had not been very satisfactory. It occurred to me that my youthful visitor was precisely the man to re-draw on wood Thackeray's sketches, and I proposed the task to him, and understood that the idea was acceptable. But Walker's nervous agitation while I was speaking to him was almost painful, and, though I did my best to set him at his ease, he left my room without my being sure that he understood the arrangement I wished to make with him. The plan was to be subject to Thackeray's approval, and I explained to him how painfully nervous his new assistant was. 'Can't you bring him here,' said Thackeray, 'and we can soon prove whether he can draw.' I wrote to Walker, and said I would call and drive him to Thackeray's house on a given day.

"The drive was almost a silent one, Walker's agitation being very obvious. When we reached our destination, Thackeray set himself in a most genial fashion, but with very partial success, to put Walker at his ease. At last he said, 'Can you draw? Mr. Smith says you can.' 'Y-y-es; I think so,' said — in a hesitating fashion — the artist, who, within a few years, was to excite the admiration of the world by the excellence of his drawings! 'I am going to shave,' said Thackeray; 'would you mind drawing my back?' Thackeray went to his toilet glass and commenced shaving, while poor Walker took a sheet of paper and began sketching his subject's broad back. The sketch [which is reproduced in *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xlv] is a proof at once of his artistic skill and of his nervous state of mind.

"I looked out of the window while Walker worked, in order that he might

furniture, and make me a presentable design for wood engraving?

Faithfully yours,

W. M. Thackeray.

The less work the better. The two tumblers touching each other — the old man red-nosed and a wig. The young man light hair, large whiskers, moustache.

not feel he was being watched. Thackeray's idea of giving his back to Walker as a subject, was as ingenious as it was kind; for I believe, if Walker had been asked to draw Thackeray's face, instead of his back, he would hardly have been able to hold his pencil.

"Walker made two or three drawings from Thackeray's designs, and the work, it is needless to say, was done well. Then he came to me one day in some excitement, and said, without a word of preface, 'I am not going to do any more of this work!' I naturally inquired what was the matter; was he dissatisfied with the payment he received? No, he replied, he was quite satisfied with the payment, but the work offended his artistic self-respect. It was not original work, and his friends, he said, told him he could do original work, and he ought to do it, and not copy other people's designs; 'a task,' he added, 'which any fool could do who could draw!' I said I would talk the matter out with Thackeray, and asked if he would be willing to make the original illustrations for the story himself, and would listen to verbal suggestions made by Thackeray, either directly, or through me, as to the subjects to be illustrated, and their treatment. This I explained to my sensitive interlocutor, would not detract from the originality and independence of his work. Walker consented, and Thackeray, who had conceived a high opinion of Walker's ability as an artist, was glad to accept the arrangement, which saved him very much trouble."

Beginning with "Nurse and Doctor" in *The Cornhill Magazine* for May, Walker executed all the remaining illustrations for *Philip* with only the slightest hints from Thackeray. Thus introduced to public notice, he became very successful not only as an illustrator but also as a painter in oils and water-colors. At the time of his death he was one of the best known of Victorian artists.

¹² "The Old Fogies" in *The Cornhill Magazine* for March.

1493.

TO FREDERICK LOCKER ¹³

JANUARY 1861

My text is taken from Augustine Birrell's *Frederick Locker-Lampson* (London, 1920), pp. 106-107, where the date is also recorded.

Garrick Club

My dear Locker,

I hope you bear your • of Saturday equanimously. I ought to have been here to prevent it, for you was only b-k b-ll-d because there was nobody to speak for you, and there should have been such a friend. But I was in bed, Thursday, Friday, and 1/2 Saturday, with one of my spasm fits, & too sick to think of anything but the basin. I had to go out on Saturday to see Fred Elliot, & just as I was driving away, his sister-in-law, poor Miss Perry said she would like to see me. When I arrived here, all was over. Bear up like a man. You are none the worse and 28 guineas the richer.

Yours

W. M. T.

¹³ Locker (1821-1895), who later (1885) took the additional surname of Lampson, is still remembered for his engaging *vers de société*. After his marriage to Lady Charlotte Bruce in 1850, he was a familiar figure in London society. He made his literary reputation with *London Lyrics* (1857). Among his recollections of Thackeray, recorded in *My Confidences* (London, 1896), pp. 297-307, there is the following little story: "I remember calling in Palace Gardens, and, while talking with all gravity to Thackeray's daughters, I noticed that they seemed more than necessarily amused. On looking round, I discovered that their father had put on my hat, and, having picked my pocket of my handkerchief, was strutting about flourishing it in the old Lord Cardigan style. As I was thin-faced, and he, as a hatter once remarked of Thomas Bruce, was 'a gent. as could carry a large body o' 'at,' you may suppose he looked sufficiently funny." (p. 305)

1494.

TO FREDERICK LOCKER

11 FEBRUARY 1861

My text is taken from Birrell's *Locker-Lampson*, pp. 106-107.

36 Onslow Square
Febr. 11. 1861.

My dear L,

Might we say *Joy* go with her & not God? the name of Allah jars rather in the pleasant little composition,¹⁴ & I never like using it if it can be turned or avoided. If I don't hear from you I shall therefore print "*Joy*" instead of — when I use the poem. Not this month however.

Yours always
W. M. T.

1495.

TO FREDERICK WALKER

11 FEBRUARY 1861

My text is taken from Marks, *Walker*, pp. 20-21, where the date is recorded.

Dear Sir, — The Blocks you have executed for the *Cornhill Magazine* have given so much satisfaction that I hope we may look for more from the same hand. You told me that the early days of the week were most convenient for you, and accordingly I sent last Monday, or Tuesday, a couple of designs which, as you would not do them,¹⁵ I was obliged to confide to an older and I grieve to own, much inferior artist. Pray let me know if I may count upon you for my large cut for March.

Believe me, very faithfully yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

¹⁴ "My Neighbour Rose," which is printed (with the alteration that Thackeray suggests) in *The Cornhill Magazine* of September, 1861, pp. 319-320.

¹⁵ See above, No. 1492. The older and inferior artist was, of course, Thackeray himself.

1496. TO WILLIAM DUER ROBINSON
FEBRUARY 1861

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 12.

February, 1861.

My dear old W. D. Russell ¹⁶ is going to you with this, and I wish I was a going too



1496A. TO JOHN FREDERICK BOYES
10-19 MARCH 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

March 10. 1861

My dear F. B.

Only 2 days ago, in one of my own attacks of illness w^h are now so frequent, I was lying in bed thinking of old times and my illness at School and your Mother's dear kind face standing over me — and when I got up I thought I would go and see her, and shake a hand with the kind old times w^h are now ended.¹⁷ I only found your note amongst my heap of letters this morning, Sunday, when I'm able to read — not quite to remember and arrange — for the first time these 5 days — Im so weak and nervous now from illness (and other circumstances w^h become immensely annoying when the corpus is not yet quite sanum) that I can only write you a word of hearty condolence and sym-

¹⁶ Russell departed for America in March, 1861, to report the Civil War for *The Times*. His faithful description of the Battle of Bull Run on July 21 brought him into extreme disfavor with his northern hosts, and he was forced to return to England in April, 1862.

¹⁷ Mrs. Boyes had recently died.

pathy and promise you that I retain always a warm tender recollection of old kindness, old days, old *youth* — now gone whither? Are we young people still walking about at this minute with your dear mother, or sitting round the old supper-table? Why shouldn't the good old Father be walking down to the New River with us boys now? Perhaps we are all kneeling down somewhere, and hearing Pritchard¹⁶ praying away — What a turn it gave me, when I went to see you, to recognize the old books. *Thalaba*,¹⁷ *Martyr of Antioch* and so on! — Those recollections were not dead, only sleeping — and so, pray God, nothing dies love least of all — wh^h your dear Mother assuredly has for you in Heaven, as you here below have for her. So we all hold on by love to the past, and by just a little turn of the circle, it becomes the future. All the way up the countless ages preceding us, Mother and Children reach in wonderful tender tradition, and off our earth pass into the world beyond — I have had a child there for 20 years now, and love her still. Good bye. I am writing with such horrible ink, pens, paper, disturbance, desk, conversation (just after Church) going on, and weakness of illness, that I scarce know how my sentences begin or end — but I am yours my dear old friend always

WMT.

March 19. This incoherency you see is more than a week old. It was scarce done when I had to struggle to my unfinished months work¹⁸ and get it done somehow or other — and looking at this paper thinks I — it is all about myself and not about my old friends. Never mind — the meaning is, that I sympathize with your grief, and kindly remember old times. Our best regards

¹⁶ Probably William Amon Gee Pritchard (b. 1812), who entered Charterhouse in 1826, went to St. John's College, Cambridge, and in later life was Rector of Brignall, Yorkshire.

¹⁷ Southey's *Thalaba the Destroyer* (1801) and Milman's *Martyr of Antioch* (1822).

¹⁸ Chapters 8 to 10 of *Philip*, which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for April, 1861.

to your wife. We hope to come and see you ere long and I am
always yours

WMT.

But that point is odd to speculate about, isn't it? The soul
being immortal — The have been is eternal, as well as the will be.
We are not only elderly men, but young men, boys, children.

1497.

TO THE MISSES JONES

1 APRIL 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.

April 1.

The Editor of the CornHill Magazine

I must inform the authors of 'a No'¹⁹ that two tearful stars
bedimmed my spectacles on reading their very very tender and
pathetic verses.

The verses are so good that they ought to be better. Why leave
careless and loose rhymes such as those marked? Why not polish
the verses more and more and make them as bright as they possibly
can be? Indeed they are worth all the trouble, I hope to have
them back at an early day, and am the writers'

Obliged faithful Serv^t

W M Thackeray

vows so dear and
Not hear the passionate words so fondly told

¹⁹ Published in *The Cornhill Magazine* of November, 1861, pp. 599-600.

(2)

For all my soul goes sorrowing to behold

How much &c.

5 x grasping pen? & mine & thine are but poor rhymes

7 stars, *futurity*

10. sea, me, see, be. The whole stanza is obscure. earthly sea specially obscure.

17 Go then! & take with thee &c

7 Dimmed with a mist of tears my eyes I raise

Two tearful stars are all my eyes can see ?

But thine into futurity should gaze

1498.

TO MRS. BROWNING

2 APRIL 1861

Published by Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 12-13.

36 Onslow Sq^r. April 2. 1861.

My dear kind Mrs. Browning

Has Browning ever had an aching tooth. w^h must come out (I don't say M^{rs} Browning, for women are much more courageous) — a tooth w^h must come out and which he has kept for months and months away from the dentist? I have had such a tooth a long time, and have sate down in this chair, and never had the courage to undergo the pull.

This tooth is an allegory (I mean *this* one). Its your poem¹⁸ that you sent me months ago — and who am I to refuse the poems of Elizabeth Browning, and set myself up as a judge over her? I cant tell you how often I have been going to write, and have failed.

You see that our Magazine is written not only for men and women, but for boys, girls, infants, sucklings almost, and one of the best wives, mothers, women in the world, writes some verses, w^h I feel certain would be objected to by many of our readers — Not that the writer is not pure, and the moral most pure chaste and right — but there are things my squeamish public

¹⁸ Lady Ritchie identifies Mrs. Browning's contribution as "Lord Walter's Wife" (*Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 12).

will not hear on Mondays though on Sundays they listen to them without scruple. In your poem you know there is an account of unlawful passion felt by a man for a woman — and though you write pure doctrine and real modesty and pure ethics, I am sure our readers would make an outcry, and so I have not published this poem.

To have to say no to my betters is one of the hardest duties I have — but I'm sure we must not publish your verses — and I go down on my knees before cutting my victims head off, and say 'Madam you know how I respect and regard you, Brownings wife and Peniny's mother: and for what I am going to do I most humbly ask your pardon.'

My girls send their very best regards and remembrances: and I am, dear Mrs. Browning

Always yours

W M Thackeray

1499. FROM JAMES FITZJAMES STEPHEN

18 APRIL 1861

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 7.

April 18, 1861.

My dear Thackeray, — Smith told me that you had been very unwell, which I was sorry to hear. Your not answering my note was of no consequence, as I took the liberty of forwarding the article which it proposed, and I suppose from Smith's having sent the proof that you do not object to it.

I have a variety of articles which I could propose to you if you would let me know when I could call on you to talk over them. I always used to find with Cook ¹⁹ that it saved a deal of trouble, and made the articles better, to have a stock on hand.

Ever sincerely yours,

J. F. Stephen.

Would you be at home some time after four on Saturday?

¹⁹ John Douglas Cook (1811–1868), editor of *The Morning Chronicle* from 1852 to 1855 and of *The Saturday Review* from 1856 to 1868.

1500.

FROM MRS. BROWNING

21 APRIL 1861

Published by Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 13-14.

April 21. Rome.

126 Via Felicè.

Dear M^r Thackeray Pray consider the famous "tooth" (a wise tooth!) as extracted under chloroform, and no pain suffered by anybody.

To prove that I am not sulky I send another contribution ²⁰ — which may prove too much perhaps, — and, if you think so, dispose of the supererogatory virtue by burning the ms, as I am sure I may rely on your having done with the last.

I confess it, dear M^r Thackeray, never was anyone turned out of a room for indecent behaviour in a more gracious and conciliatory manner! Also I confess that from your Cornhill standpoint, (paterfamilias looking on) you are probably right ten times over. From mine, however I may not be wrong — and I appeal to you as the deep man you are, whether it is not the higher mood which on Sunday bears with the 'plain word', so offensive on monday during the cheating across the counter — ? I am not a 'fast woman' — I dont like coarse subjects, or the coarse treatment of any subject — But I am deeply convinced that the corruption of our society requires, not shut doors and windows, but light and air — and that it is exactly because pure & prosperous women choose to *ignore* vice, that miserable women suffer wrong by it everywhere. Has paterfamilias, with his Oriental traditions and veiled female faces, very successfully dealt with a certain class of evil? What if materfamilias, with her quick pure instincts and honest innocent eyes, do more towards their expulsion by simply looking at them & calling them by their names —

See what insolence you put me up to by your kind way of naming my dignities, — "Browning's wife, and Penini's mother"

²⁰ "Little Mattie", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine*, June, 1861, pp. 736-737.

— And I, being vain, (turn some people out of a room and you dont humble them properly) retort with — “materfamilias”! —

Our friend M^r Story has just finished a really grand statue of the “African Sybil” — It will place him very high.

Where are you all, Annie, Minnie — why don’t you come and see us in Rome?

My husband bids me give you his kind regards, and I shall send Pen’s love with mine to your dear girls —

most truly yours

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

We go to Florence in the latter half of May.

1501. FROM ANNE THACKERAY TO MRS. BAXTER

25 APRIL 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

36. Onslow Sq. April 25

How do you do My dear M^{rs} Baxter after all these years that we have known you and talked about you and this is indeed not nearly the first time that I have written to you and burnt my letter. We know you all I think a great deal better than you know us for Papa has been talking about you these 5 6 7 years I dont like to count up it seems such a life time and you don’t know how much we liked getting the pictures. Only we cried out first *where is M^{rs} Baxter* & she had stopped behind in America — We have 3 faded little old tin daguerreotypes w^h my Father brought home when he first came back & as we look at them we think everybody very much changed — I dont think you w^d regret this if you could see our old friends — Miss Libby has lost her nose (the old picture is Miss Libby still) And Lucy an eye and her sister is faded away altogether and so these seem quite fresh new friends come to see us again after a long absence. When are we going to see you all really? Only three days before your letter came Papa & I were saying we can put M^{rs} Baxter into the big front room & Lucy into the back & the boys up above when the new house is

finished. Everybody here says O what dear little children — I am quite foolish abt the little girl she has a sweet little face of her own w^h quite touches me but I think the little boy is the general favourite. (I am meandering off from y^r children to your grand children) and in short you must come to us or we must go to you for I know it is fated that we shall meet one day. There are very few people to whom we can even talk about you — M^r Mildmay used to tell us abt Miss Sallie sometimes but I think we were never very partial to him & scarcely knew him. We saw him with his wife ²¹ the other night: she has been very handsome I remember her at certain French classes a lovely young creature — We have seen very few Americans lately the last we cared for were some charming Miss Fishes ²² or Fishs or Fish and since then only some very odd queer people from y^r country have been to see us. When your son comes to see us we will be very stupid & we shall be very glad to know him & I am afraid he will be dreadfully bored & I know he will be very welcome. Do you know what our household consists of 1. a little dog with a curly tail. 2. 3. Jack & Jill two puppies that squeak a good deal 4 a little cat passionately attached to Papa, & she purrs & jumps on his knee & wont be turned off. 5 a certain kind gentleman whose picture I send you — tho' to me it is not him a bit. 6 Miss Anny 7 Miss Minny. Im nearly 24 & Minny nearly 21 and absurdly young for her age for she still likes playing with children and kittens & hates reading & is very shy tho' she does not show it & very clever tho' she does not do any thing in particular and always helps me out of scrapes w^h I am always getting into. Then there is Amy Crowe who has lived with us these 7 years & who is one of the best and gentlest & kindest of women and then there is a faithful but tearful & affected cook, a pretty little maid called Fanny who is literary and quotes the Cornhill Magazine; and a gawky housemaid; and also a faithful reckless youth who breaks the china & tumbles down stairs & is called the Butler. And now good night for tonight dear M^r

²¹Henry Bingham Mildmay married Georgiana Frances Bulteel (d. 1899) on July 24, 1860.

²² See below, p. 392.



ANNE THACKERAY

From a painting by G. F. Watts



HARRIET THACKERAY
From a painting by G. F. Watts

Baxter here is a message from Minny to say I must go & dress as we are going to fetch Papa at the club & on to some tea-parties — I have not written you a letter at all but a very silly little domestic history — (two days after) and all this while you in America are hearing guns thundering and canon & speeches and seeing a good deal of smoke as I sincerely & every body here sincerely hopes The news of the Fort-battle ²³ came in after I began my letter and now I am almost ashamed to send such twaddle when you must be think & talking of wars & politics and presidents — and anything but puppies and kittens Papa gets letters fr^m M^r Russell of the Times by whom he sent you a token wh^{ch} was never delivered. I dont think you will find him a bit changed when you do come & see us, he is always ill but rallies and cheers again in the wonderfulest way — When his attacks come we are as I need not tell you very wretched and anxious & when they go away we forget all about them as he does himself he is up in his room now at work & he will wonder at my coolness in writing you such a letter as this only as I know you are the M^{rs} Baxter I'm sure you are I am not afraid that you will be angry. We have been reading some charming books ²⁴ from y^r country lately M^r Holmes' I sat up half the night over — M^r Motley is hardly an American — I hope it is true what people say & that Miss Motley will marry L^d Dufferin ²⁵ — All our trees are green with spring but the east winds are still blowing & make us shiver & parch until they are gone. In the new house there is a garden where we can sit in summer-time & pleasant rooms opening into it & windows looking over Kensington Gardens & the Rooks & the Elm trees — That is what I hope you will see some day & meanwhile I am Your very sincerest

A I Thackeray

²³ The Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12-13.

²⁴ Holmes's *The Professor at the Breakfast-Table* was published in 1860, and the first two volumes of Motley's *United Netherlands* were published in 1861.

²⁵ The fifth Baron Dufferin (1826-1902), later (1888) first Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, married Georgina Hamilton in 1862.

1502. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE

2 MAY 1861

Address: W. W. Synge Esq^{re} | 3 Cumberland St | Pimlico. *Postmark:* LONDON MY 2 61. Extracts published, *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 105.

I take another sort of paper to see if I can make it more cheerful. Why the deuce shouldn't I be? Morgan John always is — and you know by rights ought to hang himself — I have no doubt he was at Paddy Green's²⁶ last night, and as happy with those old songs and that tepid gin and water, as Lord Overstone²⁷ with his (tell me if I put the figures right) 10,000,000£. Anny is always cheerful too — Amy ditto — so I daresay am I, only I moan and grumble. My chief companions now are Bob Bell and Fladgate, and our amusement is to go dine tête à tête at Greenwich or Blackwall. We did so yesterday — and our enjoyment was to speculate upon M^r Lovegrove's speedy and certain suicide — for the river stinks fitfully — (though quite pleasant yesterday) the Company has left off coming: the rent must be awfully heavy: the provision must rot, *faute de mangeurs*, and RUIN must ensue. When will you be back? In time enough to welcome the Liberator of Italy²⁸ (from the Alps to the Adriatic) when he comes to give freedom to the oppressed nationalities at present groaning in these islands. The South of your dear Ireland will receive him with open arms — small doubt of that. Armstrong says if he will wait for two years: we can wap him: and a gentleman at the G (where the political information is usually very fine) said last night, he has been spending during the war at the rate of 200000£ a day —

²⁶ Evans's Hotel, the proprietor of which was John ("Paddy") Green.

²⁷ Samuel Jones Loyd (1796–1883), first and last Baron Overstone, one of the richest men in England. His annual rent-rolé in 1883 was £58,098 (Bateman, *Great Landowners*, p. 348), and on his death his personal estate was sworn under £2,100,000. He owned the great banking house of Jones, Loyd, and Company.

²⁸ Napoléon III, whose aid had been instrumental in establishing the Kingdom of Italy on March 26, 1861.

And Abbott ²⁹ was talking about you then and wondered whether I would be ready for the 17th — as I have promised to be these months past: and Crawford is going to marry Miss Ford (30000£) and me and the gals is a going to Cornwall to Lady Molesworth next month if our work is done — and if our elders will let us. who have taken lodgings at Hythe and are expected to day there. My mother has wonderfully recovered from her accident: but I suppose she inherits from me rather a gloomy temper, & the prospect of a summer at Hythe does not add much to my cheerfulness. We have made one or 2 new acquaintances whom we like, and who like us — at first. I have not fallen in love with anybody all the year. I went t'other night to Cremorne,³⁰ and found even that melancholy. And the Sherry Cocker — O l'infamie! I have bought 12 new forks 6 new teaspoons. We have got a puppy. He fell down the area & broke his leg. Lady Palmerston has only asked me & 1 girl once the whole season. At Harrow speeches I was cheered more than anybody except the Prince of Wales. I am prodigiously popular in Russia. We are going to have only one more little dinner this season. We keep a boy now, in loo of a boy and a butler, and do just as well. The swells have almost entirely left us off. My hydraulic apparatus continues to be disorganized. And now, sir, I must go back to my plate and to my work: and, having told you all the news (Jo Crowe has been Times Correspondent & was close to the Emperor of Austria at Solferino) — I present my cordial respects to your beloved Chief,³¹ and quick Charles! Send somebody with this to M^r Abbott at the F. O.

Adieu. Yours

W M T.

²⁹ Charles Stuart Aubrey Abbott (1834–1882), later (1870) third Baron Tenterden, who was at this time a clerk in the Foreign Office. He afterwards became Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

³⁰ Cremorne Gardens. See above, No. 963.

³¹ Lord John Russell, who was Foreign Secretary in Lord Palmerston's second cabinet.

1503.

FROM MRS. BROWNING

21 MAY 1861

Address: Editor of the Cornhill Mag. | (Mess^{rs} Smith & Elder.) | Cornhill. |
 London — | Angleterre. *Postmarks:* 21 MAG., 23 MAI 61 MARSEILLE.
 Published by Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 14.

Dear M^r Thackeray

I hope you received my note & last poem —

I hope still more earnestly that you wont think I am putting my spite against your chastening hand, into a presumptuous & troublesome fluency —

But Hans Christian Andersen is here, — charming us all, & not least, the children — So I wrote these verses.³² — Not for Cornhill uses this month of course, — though I send them now that they may lie over at your service (if you are so pleased) for some other month of the summer. We go to Florence on the first of June, — and lo' — here is the twenty first of May —

With love to dear Annie & Minny, I remain

Most truly yours

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Rome — 126. Via Felice.

1504.

TO MRS. BAXTER

24 MAY 1861

Published in *American Family*, pp. 171-175.

24 May. 36 Onslow Sq^e

I think you hardly know me in this hand-writing³³ I return to it by fits and starts and when I write with quill pens. Your little package of photographs³⁴ came and touched us all — How I should like to see the originals, and the one who *isn't* represented,

³² Mrs. Browning's last poem, "The North and the South".

³³ Thackeray's slanting hand.

³⁴ Mrs. Fuller tells me that these photographs have not been preserved.

Madam. Why is there not one of you? I suppose Papa did not care to have his wife shown with a wrinkle in her face, and always thinks of her as that young lady in white muslin and a frill, who to my mind is not half so good looking as the M^{rs} Baxter I knew. How the boys have grown! Wyllys moustache is quite elegant. I daresay George has one by this time on his solemn face. Do you know, but then I should not like to tell her, I think Sarah has grown handsomer: and we are divided here about w^h of the children we like best — the dark little maiden with the round eyes or the little man with the Saxon face. There's a very fine kind melancholy letter from Sarah Hampton w^h I have been reading. It is stretching a hand out into the past and shaking hands with a ghost there. I suppose you wont have the courage to leave home now that it is made so comfortable to you by war. If Wyllys doesn't come till December or so we shall most likely be able to house him in Vanity Fair House. If he comes sooner we must get him a lodging round the corner. At the pastry cook's you know, there are very decent rooms: and it's not farther off than the brown house from the Clarendon. That wretch W. H. Russell! On the night before he left London we dined at the Garrick Club: and what did I do but cut off a beautiful lock of snowy hair and write in an envelope Be kind to the bearer of this. And he never bore it to you: though he went to the Clarendon. And I dont at all envy him the errand upon w^h he is gone to the states.³⁵

Awful Reprisals. Thackeray invested the money w^h he received for his lectures in America, in American railway stocks.³⁶ If they cease to pay dividends, he threatens to come back to America, and give more lectures.

I wonder shall I go and call upon your Minister?³⁷ I have well nigh broken with the world the grand world and only go to the people who make my daughters welcome. The fine ladies won't: or is it that the girls are haughty, and very difficult to

³⁵ See above, No. 1496.

³⁶ See above, No. 988, note 175.

³⁷ Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886), American Minister to Great Britain from 1861 to 1868.

please? They won't submit to be patronized by the grandees at all, that's the fact: and I think I rather like them for being rebellious and independent — more so than their Papa, who is older and more worldly.

I think I kept back this notekin in order to sketch the new house at Kensington — but fond memory supplies the place of actual survey: and this is what you will see when you come to London —



the reddest house in all the town. I have already had 1000£ offered me for my bargain: but I want if I can afford health & time to write the life of Queen Anne in that room with the arched window w^h has a jolly look out on noble Kensington Garden Elms, and is no farther from the centre than what? than 25th Street let us say. But the house is very dear. It costs 6000£ and 100£ a year ground rent. Where we are now only costs 3000 — But its a famous situation & will be a little competency to the girl who inherits it. Anny has been ailing of late, and has gone to the country for change of air.

I think Trollope is much more popular with the Cornhill Magazine readers than I am: ³⁸ and doubt whether I am not going down hill considerably in public favor. It doesn't concern me very much Were I to let yonder red house We could live almost without writing but then you know Wife and parents are expensive. They

³⁸ The concluding installments of Trollope's *Framley Parsonage* were appearing in *The Cornhill Magazine* concurrently with the early chapters of *Philip*.

want more money here than at Paris: and Thank God up to the present there's no lack. But my mother gets very rebellious and wants to go back. There's a little clique of old ladies there who are very fond of her and with whom she is a much more important personage than she is in this great city. If anything happens to the Major she will go to Paris and give us the slip and grumble when she is there and presently come back.

Well. This is not much to tell is it? To write twopenny news of domestic gossip to people enjoying a revolution. I have never got to believe in it as serious as yet: and my impression of the U. S. is so incurably friendly that I can't fancy you quarrelling and hating each other. I can't think the fight will be a serious fight. In what will it benefit the North to be recoupled to the South? In the old wars we used to talk of the ruin of England as ensuing on the Separation of the Colonies — and aren't both better for the Separation?

Come let me shut up this little twaddling letterkin, and pay a shilling for it w^h is 11 1/2 more than its worth, and send it with a handshake to dear friends from their faithful

W M T.

1505. TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN

24-31 MAY 1861

My text is taken from Warwick Elwin's memoir of his father in *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 158, and from a Sotheby catalogue of November 12, 1928.

24 May, ever so many days after birth

My dear Primrose

I think I have just been proposed and *refused* as a member of the Literary Club. . . . Walpole³⁹ proposed me: and I told him that an adverse fate w^d very likely befall me. All people don't like me as you do. I think sometimes I am deservedly unpopular, and in some cases I rather like it. Why should I want to be liked by Jack and Tom? Not long ago I went to the Stalls at Drury

³⁹ Spencer Horatio Walpole (1806-1898), the politician and historian.

Lane with Robert Bell, and to us came in the next stalls Dickens and Wilkie Collins. Dickens & I shook hands and didn't say one single word to each other. And if he read my feelings on my face as such a clever fellow would he knows now that I have found him out. Forster is the man who cut me because he fancied I meant him in one of the Roundabout Papers ⁴⁰. . . . I know the Thackeray that those fellows have imagined to themselves — a very selfish, heartless, artful, morose, and designing man. — What gall and wormwood is trickling from my pen! Well, there's no black drop in *you*, Mr. Parson; but, mind you, primroses are very rare flowers by the side of Thames. . . . My old friend James White has been in London several weeks and at 200 yards from this and never let me know of his being here. He has a great alliance with Dickens and Forster. But why should that prevent him from seeing an old friend. Ah if I dared but put all those fellows into a book! And suppose they put me into another — giving their views of your humble servant? Those books would be queer reading.

I wonder shall I have life and health to write Queen Anne? I long to get at it in my old age, feeling that the days of novels & romances and love making are over . . . what about books? You know we don't read 'em in London. I admire but can't read Adam Bede and the books of that Author. Motley and the Spanish Armada amused me very much: and sure Buckle is very diverting . . .

This scrap was written a week ago: don't you think it were best

⁴⁰ Forster had in mind the following passage from "On a Joke I Once Heard from the Late Thomas Hood", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for December, 1860: "There is my friend Baggs, who goes about abusing me, and of course our dear mutual friends tell me. Abuse away, *mon bon*! You were so kind to me when I wanted kindness, that you may take the change out of that gold now, and say I am a cannibal and a negro, if you will. Ha, Baggs! Dost thou wince as thou readest this line? Does guilty conscience throbbing at thy breast tell thee of whom the fable is narrated? Puff out thy wrath, and, when it has ceased to blow, my Baggs shall be to me as the Baggs of old — the generous, the gentle, the friendly." (*Works*, XII, 264-265) Thackeray's first draft of this passage, in which Baggs is described as absurd as well as generous, friendly, and gentle (*Roundabout Papers*, ed. Wells, p. 394), suggests Forster even more unmistakably.

burned? Many letters were best burned; for example, love letters, and especially *hate* letters. But if I don't send this one off to you, how on earth shall I communicate with my Vicar of Wakefield? You know I am too lazy to begin a new page. . . . A gossiping letter! Well, upon my word, this is a rarity! Good-bye, my dear Vicar. Mind and come and see us when you come up.

1506.

TO FREDERICK WALKER

MAY? 1861 ⁴¹

My text is taken from Marks, *Walker*, p. 24.

Then you must be hungry, and shall have my piece of cake.

Dear Mr. Walker, I think this will make as good a subject as another. The three or four children *ad libitum*, Mrs. Pendennis, Bandeaux, Madonna; Mr. P. round face, no moustache; Mrs. Pendennis making breakfast, two or three children, Pendennis reading newspaper. Philip just come into breakfast-room.

⁴¹ In chapter 15 of *Philip* (*Works*, XI, 269) the gift is of bread and jam, but in Walker's drawing for the July number of *The Cornhill Magazine* it is unmistakably cake.

1507.

TO MISS CAMPBELL ⁴²

13 JUNE 1861

Address: The Honorable Miss Campbell | Stratheden House. *Postmark:*
LONDON JU 13 1861. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^{re}
Thursday.



Dear Miss Campbell.

I go down on my knees to you and beg you to read my queer petition. The writer of the accompanying ⁴³ was curate when I used to live at Kensington and go to 8 o'clock morning church with that unostentatious piety (w^h perhaps you dont know) distinguishes me. He was a good simple gentlemanlike moderate and modest

⁴² John, first Baron Campbell (1779-1861), Lord Chancellor of England, had two unmarried daughters, both of whom lived with him at Stratheden House, Kensington Road. They were Mary Scarlett Campbell, who married in 1869, and Cecilia Campbell, who married in 1862.

⁴³ Thackeray's enclosure has been lost.

man and I heard from him one of the three best sermons I have ever heard in my life.

There is, it appears, a young woman who wants to be married to this worthy man — and as I know by your face you have a kind heart — what can I say more?

Yours most faithfully
W M Thackeray

1508. TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN
JUNE 1861⁴⁴

Published in facsimile by Warwick Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 246-247.



Dear Dr Primrose

Lest I should be too much elated by your praises the other day

⁴⁴ " 'Won't you come to London,' Thackeray wrote, May 24th, 1861, 'and see the new house I am building? — such a good, comfortable, cheerful one, all built out of Cornhill money.' Accordingly Elwin lunched with him when he was in town in June, and went to look at the house. As they were going over it, Thackeray said, 'An uncle of mine [Charles Carmichael] annoyed me

see what a wholesome corrective⁴⁵ was in store for me in that heap of letters w^h you saw.

Yours in pretty good spirits nevertheless



1509.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

1 JULY 1861

My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, p. 332.

36 O. Sqr., July 1, 1861.

My dear J. B.—Thanks for your constant kindness to W.M.T., who is indolent and disorderly but not ungrateful. . . .

by saying, "It ought to be called *Vanity Fair*." 'Why should that annoy you?' asked Elwin. 'Because it is true,' replied the other; 'the fact is, it is too good for me.'

"Elwin, on the same occasion, praised the *Adventures of Philip*, which was then coming out in the Cornhill. Thackeray knew wherein its weakness lay. He said, 'I have told my tale in the novel department. I can repeat old things in a pleasant way, but I have nothing fresh to say. I get sick of my task when I am ill, and think, Good heavens! what is all this stuff about?' Miss Thackeray asked him at lunch whether he was going to dine at home or 'at a house by a river'. 'At a house by a river, to be sure,' he answered; 'I shall go to Greenwich and write a bit of Philip.' 'Write Philip at a tavern at Greenwich!' exclaimed Elwin. 'Yes,' he replied, 'I cannot write comfortably in my own room. I do most of my composition at hotels or at a club. There is an excitement in public places which sets my brain working.'

"Miss Thackeray brought out some pen-and-ink sketches which her father had been making for a charity bazaar. Elwin asked if she would sell him one by private contract. 'No,' interposed Thackeray, 'you cannot afford to buy gimcracks, now you are a dethroned editor. I will draw something for you, and give it to you.'" (Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 245-246) A few days later this drawing and note arrived.

⁴⁵ A note by an anonymous critic, which reads: "It is with great regret I write the following letter, — regret that cause should have arisen for the writing of it. I will not trespass much on your valuable time, and will at once come to the subject. That subject is the great degeneration in your writings since you published your last great work, the *Newcomes*. The *Virginians* was a great falling off, but even that was immensely superior to the portion which has appeared of the *Adventures of Philip*. Surely, as an admirer of your genius, I have a right to appeal to you (even at an immense pecuniary sacrifice) to consult your future fame, and to keep it intact by

What a fine memoir that is of your father! ⁴⁶ What a fine patriarchal figure! The book is all good reading. I wish you a good heart, fortunes and misfortunes, and am always, my dear Brown, yours,

W. M. T.

1510.

TO THOMAS FRASER

31 JULY 1861

Address: Thomas Fraser Esq^{re} | Reform Club | Pall Mall London. Postmarks: FOLKESTONE JY 31 61, LONDON JY 31 61. Facsimile published in Van Duzer's *Thackeray Library*, p. 8.

Pavilion. Folkestone. Wednesday

My dear T. F.

Now that our dear old Lord Mayor is beaten,⁴⁷ couldn't we get up some testimonial to him? All sides would join in it, and though I'm economical enough in paper ⁴⁸ I should be very glad to put my name alongside of a penny stamp. Think if you can't agitate the matter

Yours W M Thack.

writing no more novels, if you cannot improve on Lovel the Widower. Perhaps this letter is written to no purpose. Maybe, blinded by the flattering incense offered by the world to a great man and a successful one like you, you will set me down as a presumptuous fool. Anyhow, I have done what I consider my duty in writing and telling you the truth, even at the risk of irretrievably offending you. It is written in the best wish both for your future fame and happiness. . . . P. S. I send my address, and hoping you will not lug my humble epistle into a Roundabout Paper." (Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 246-247)

⁴⁶ "Letter to John Cairns, D. D." in the second series of Brown's *Horæ Subsecivæ* (1861), the dedication of which Thackeray shared with Gladstone, Ruskin, and Andrew Coventry Dick.

⁴⁷ In 1861 Lord John Russell, M. P. for London, accepted the Chiltern Hundreds previous to becoming a peer. Two candidates presented themselves for his place in parliament, William Cubitt (conservative), Lord Mayor of London in 1861 and 1862, and Western Wood (liberal). On July 30 Wood was returned by a vote of 5,747 to 5,241. (*Times*, July 30-August 1)

⁴⁸ Thackeray's note is written inside the flap of an envelope.

1511.

TO ?
6 AUGUST 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

Folkstone.

August 6.

Dear Sir

The very good verses you sent to me are I think on a subject that will scarce suit our public. I once wrote a story myself in which an elderly woman fell in love with a young man;⁴⁹ and it was the old women who were angry. I shall be very glad to hear from you again and if you have prose as good as your verse, to give it my best attention.

Faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1512.

TO FREDERICK WALKER
AUGUST? 1861⁵⁰

My text is taken from a facsimile in Marks's *Walker*, p. 22.

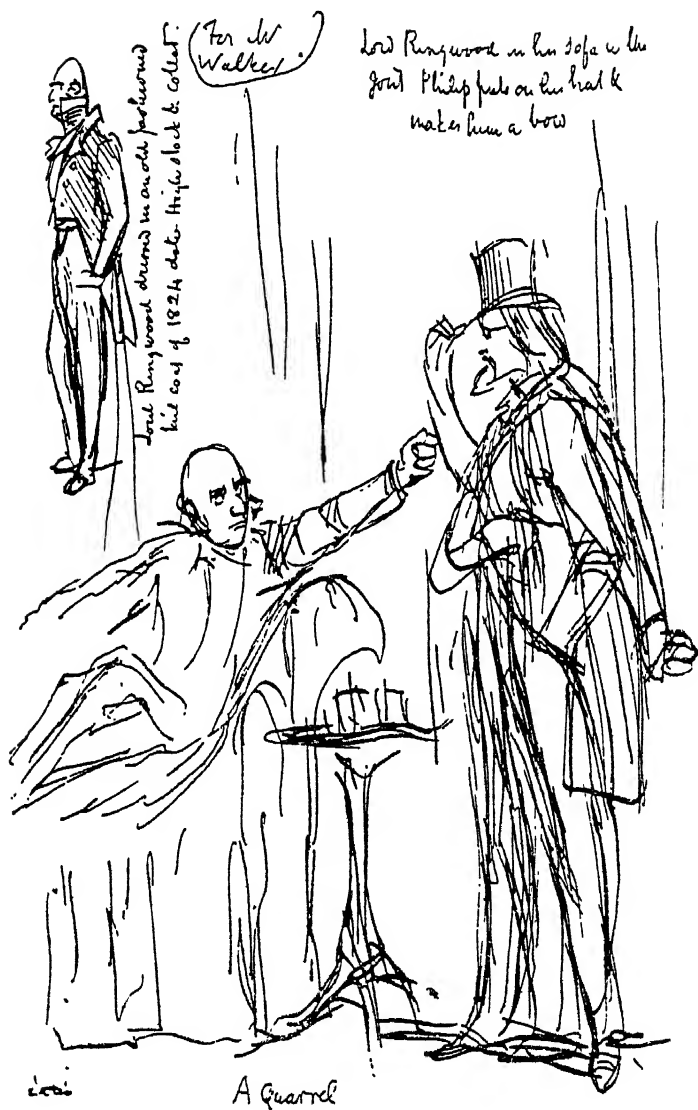
For Mr Walker

Lord Ringwood on his sofa in the gout. Philip puts on his hat & makes him a bow

Lord Ringwood dressed in an old fashioned tail coat of 1824 date High stock & collar.

⁴⁹ Lady Maria Castlewood and Harry Warrington in *The Virginians*. See particularly chapter 18.

⁵⁰ Thackeray is describing "A Quarrel", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for October.



1513.

TO GEORGE SMITH
3 SEPTEMBER 1861

My text is taken from *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xxxi, where the drawing is reproduced in facsimile.



36 Onslow Square, September 3, 1861.

Some people think long faces very becoming. Mine will lengthen; but it is because your speculation is not so good as it might be, not for the personal loss to yours always,
W. M. T.

1514.

TO JOHN FREDERICK BOYES
1 OCTOBER 1861

Address: J. F. Boyes Esq^r | 10 St James's Terrace, | Bomfield Terrace | W.
Postmark: LONDON 3 OC 61. Published in part, *The Bookworm*, IV (1891), 49; the whole letter by Mr. Wilson, *Boston Transcript*, July 31, 1920.

36 Onslow Sq^e October 1.
S. W. 1861

My dear J. F. B.

I dont know how long your packet has been lying here. I thought it contained old books purchased by me, and only opened it yesterday, when I recognized the little old Lives w^h I remember reading

when we were boys in CharterHouse Square. Now we are half a century old and the kind hand w^h wrote the name in the books in that fine well-remembered writing is laid under the grass w^h will cover us old gentlemen too ere long, after our little life journey is over. And the carriage is going down the hill, is n't it? Mine is: after having had some pleasant travelling, after being well nigh upset, after being patched up again, after being robbed by footpads &c &c. The terminus can't be far off — a few years more or less. I wouldn't care to travel over the ground again: though I have had some pleasant days and dear companions.

I have just come back from Scotland where I have been burying my good old step-father;⁵¹ who had but a few hours illness, and was quite well and cheerful the night before he was sent for. So they pass away. And now comes the turn of our generation: and Amen. We send our best regards to your wife and thank you for the little books.

Yours always
W M T.

1515.

TO MISS THACKERAY
3 OCTOBER 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^f S. W.
October 3.

My dear Cousin

About that photograph — why it is weeks and weeks since I owe you a letter. Yours came to me at Folkestone and I had no means of getting you a photograph other than one of those ill favoured pictures w^h you have seen and dont like. Then I went to Paris tempted by a very fine day and smooth sea and was ill there. Then I came home and had to hurry off to Scotland to my mother whose dear old husband died there. As soon as I can I

⁵¹ Major Carmichael-Smyth died on September 9, 1861.

will get a more pleasing likeness of your humble servant and send it to Bath. Meanwhile he is

Yours sincerely always
W M Thackeray

Have you seen me done as the Literary Gorilla?⁵² A very hairy and hideous baboon.

1516.

TO THE MISSES JONES

14 OCTOBER 1861

Address: The Misses Jones | 3 Bedford Terrace | Bedford. Postmarks: LONDON OC 14 61, BEDFORD OC 15. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^r S. W.

October 14. 1861.

I have been away, and in the midst of many troubles, forgot the verses⁵³ — and mislaid the corrections w^h you made. Will you kindly look at the proof again, and oblige

Your very faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

1517.

FROM FRANCIS D. FINLAY⁵⁴

17 OCTOBER 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

Northern Whig Office

Belfast. 17 Oct 1861

Dear M^r Thackeray,

We had a talk — some of us — the other evening, on the possibilities of getting you to make a public appearance in Belfast. I was requested very urgently to bell the cat. You may not have

⁵² In *The Cornhill Magazine* for September Thackeray had written: "walking down St. James Street yesterday, I met a friend who says to me, 'Roundabout, my boy, have you seen your picture? Here it is!'" And he pulls out a portrait, executed in photography, of your humble servant, as an immense and most unpleasant-featured baboon, with long hairy hands, and called by the waggish artist 'A Literary Gorilla.'" (*Works*, XII, 324)

⁵³ See above, No. 1497.

⁵⁴ No doubt the son of Francis Dalzell Finlay (1794–1857), who founded *The Northern Whig* in 1824.

forgotten that once I was very near succeeding on this point, and that it fell through partly through fear of the sea and partly through apprehension of Mulligan and C^o I cannot undertake to rule the waves but I will undertake to manage Mulligan. At least I will put it out of Mulligan's power to make your appearance a pecuniary loss. You told me once you got £25 a lecture for the Georges and were therewith contented. I am authorised to say that I will get you £150 for three nights reading if you will come to Belfast. Dublin ought to be good for double that, and Cork for as much. Say £500 clear of all expenses inside a fortnight. I think you might count on that. Would it be worth taking? all things considered.

Personally I have long wished to see you in Belfast where success is certain. The Mulligans don't flourish and abound here.

Will you take the idea into consideration?

Yours very truly

Francis D. Finlay

W. M. Thackeray Es^q

Little Bruce,⁵⁵ whom you saw ("Classic & Historic Portraits") is dead.

1518.

TO MISS GASSIOT

20 OCTOBER 1861⁵⁶

Hitherto unpublished.

Miss Gassiot. I cannot find my fine pens, or I could have made a much finer crown and 3. But I think you beat me, and that your little hand is more legible than that of your most respectful
humble Servant
W M Thackeray



⁵⁵ James Bruce (1808–1861), author of *Classic and Historic Portraits* (1853) and editor of *The Northern Whig*, had died on August 19.

⁵⁶ This note, written the day before, accompanied Thackeray's letter of October 21 to Lady Olliffe.

1519.

TO LADY OLLIFFE

21 OCTOBER 1861

Address: Lady Olliffe | Mansion House | E. C. *Postmark:* LONDON OC 21
61. Hitherto unpublished.

For
The Lady Mayoress.⁵⁷
These.

My dear lady olliffe but the fact is we have been engaged this ever so long to dinner with my cousin mrs bayne in regent's park otherwise i should have been delighted to come you know i should and as i prepared this for miss gassiot yesterday i may as well kill two birds with one stone and address myself to the lady mayoress in this manner and its very difficult to read and very witty isn't it?

p s if you turn over youll see a picture of the lord mayor killing master jack cade opposite smith and elders shop

1520.

TO FRANK FLADGATE

OCTOBER? 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e
Saturday

Dear Fladgate

The time for completing my number ⁵⁸ is awfully near. If you have read Philip in yesterdays holyday, please send me the proof back — as I want to go on with the story.

Or can you come and dine tomorrow? I wont have the shivers D. V. nor too much brandy & bitter beer. and with a sober bottle of Claret we will talk over the matter.

⁵⁷ Lady Olliffe was the daughter of Thackeray's friend William Cubitt, at this time Lord Mayor of London.

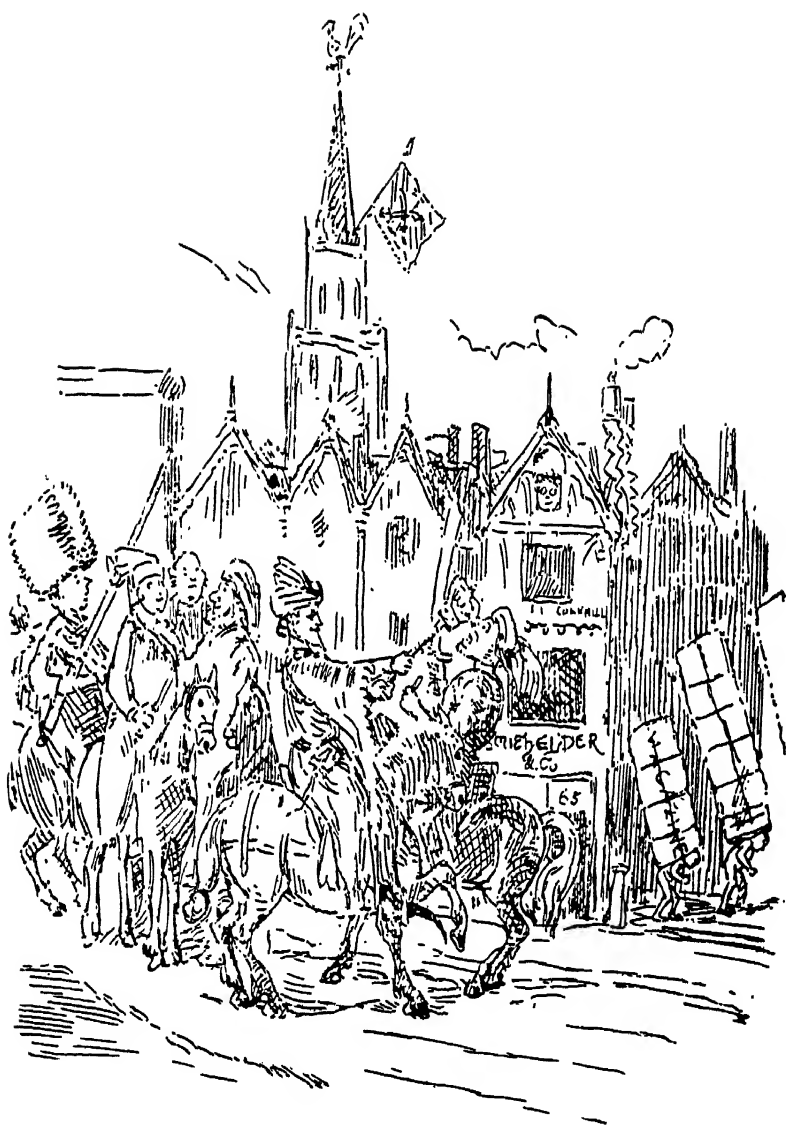
⁵⁸ Chapters 23 and 24 of *Philip*, which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for November, 1861.

For

The Lady Maypress.

These.

My dear lady of the butler's pack ~~and~~ in view of a good time very long to dwell in the impossible of
a gentle breeze to the river should have been delighted to see you in view should and as it
beard this form miss gascoyne yesterday may as well be two birds with one stone and address my
self to the lady maypress in this manner and it may be difficult to read and very silly is it?
p.s. if you have any pictures of the lord mayor killing mastiff cocked up opposite the old shop



How an M.S. temp Ric^d. 11.

A DRAWING SENT WITH THACKERAY'S LETTER OF 21 OCTOBER 1861

Morgan John O'Connell & another friend of mine may be here but they are friends of the house and interested in the progress of the story.

I can no more attempt to do intricate law-business than to play the piano — a very brief few lines rightly put must be all I can venture upon.

very faithfully yours
W M T.

1521.

TO FRANK FLADGATE
2 NOVEMBER 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

G.

November 2.

Dear Fladgate.

I have been very ungrateful in not thanking you sooner for the Wicked Earl.⁵⁹ We shall be able to reward Virtue and confound Vice famously now at the end of Vol III. How I wish I had got so far! It was most kind of you to take all this trouble for

Yours very sincerely
W M Thackeray

1522.

TO MR. HOLL
19 NOVEMBER 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

November 19.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.

My dear M^r Holl.

The Article is very lively, well-written, and pleasant BUT (now it's coming out!) — but the plot I think won't do for us.

⁵⁹ Fladgate appears to have told Thackeray the story of the Lowther inheritance, for which see *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xliii.

So I fold up your Corazza and return it with many thanks, and not a little regret to send back such a merry little paper.

very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1523.

TO LADY OLLIFFE
30 NOVEMBER 1861

Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday. Nov^r 30.

My dear Lady Telegraph.

I was obliged to go away from Caulfields⁶⁰ tother night immediately after dinner unwell — and I'm no better and in such a dismal way that I can't hope to come to you tomorrow; although I am

Yours always respectfully



1524.

TO GEORGE VIRTUE⁶¹
13 DECEMBER 1861

My text is taken from a facsimile published by Mr. Wilson, *Boston Transcript*, July 31, 1920.

Dec^r 13. 1861.

Dear M^r Virtue

I {gave} lent Maginn 500£ in his life time and he paid me 20£ back. I think I have done enough in giving him bread — let other philanthropists give him a stone.

Faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

⁶⁰ Colonel James Montgomery Caulfield, F. R. G. S., 23 Bruton Street, Berkeley Square (*London Directory*, 1862).

⁶¹ George Virtue (1794–1868), a London bookseller and publisher.

1525. TO MR. AND MRS. MARTIN
24 DECEMBER 1861

My text is taken from Sir Theodore Martin's *Helena Faucit*, p. 258.

Dec. 24/61.

Many thanks for Fuchs.⁶² I write in the twilight, wishing all neighbours a merry Xmas. Off in half an hour to Boulogne. 'For all travellers by water, for all *sick persons*,'⁶³ please see the Litany. — Adieu, *mes bons voisins*!

1526. TO JOHN SKELTON
1861

My text is taken from Skelton's *Table Talk of Shirley*, p. 30.

Wednesday, 36 Onslow Square.

My dear Mr Skelton, — Many thanks to Shirley. I like his writing so much, that I long to know whether we can't have some of it in the *C. H. M.*? About that Winter article? Will Winter stay if you don't hold it by the beard? If you have it, do send it to Cornhill, and write a line to my house warning, — Yours very faithfully,

W. M. Thackeray.

1527. TO ADELAIDE PROCTER
1861

Hitherto unpublished.

Miss

A friend is a friend. A man's word is his word. Take this little paper.⁶⁴ Ah if you knew the agony it has cost me to make it! 3

⁶² No doubt a copy of Goethe's *Reinecke Fuchs* (1794).

⁶³ See above, No. 879.

⁶⁴ "A Leaf out of a Sketch Book", published in *The Victoria Regia* (1861), which Miss Procter edited.

days I give you my word. I can't write unless — unless I am paid.



I will write to M^r Swain the wood engraver to do 2 blocks of Jim and Sady to be printed along with the article and am

Yours

WMT.

On the sketch under the figures is some writing w^h I took down at the time and for w^h directions are left in the MS.

1528.

TO ? 1861 ⁶⁵

Hitherto unpublished.

We had read the Telegraph with much edification in this house, and I knew the writer of the article ⁶⁶ as well as if I had seen his hand and blue ink. I hope we may both of us live so long as to outlive all chances of paragraphs in large print: decent prosy people comfortable under our vine and fig-tree: ⁶⁷ playing at whist of nights: looked up to in the parish: respected by the neighbouring tradesmen. And I don't think I shall read any novels then: shall you? But who can say? You see Madame Saqui ⁶⁸ has resurged on the tight-rope — Perhaps I shall be wanting to perform again when I am an old woman.

⁶⁵ This letter was written in the late autumn of 1861, when Yates (*Recollections and Experiences*, II, 64–65) had a severe attack of gastric fever while travelling in Switzerland with his wife and Alfred Austin.

⁶⁶ I have not seen a file of *The Daily Telegraph* for 1861.

⁶⁷ *Micah*, 4, 4.

⁶⁸ A celebrated tightrope dancer (1786–1866), supposed to have made her début before the outbreak of the French Revolution as the infant child of the heroine in *Geneviève de Brabant*. Napoléon I called Mme Saqui the “première acrobate de France”, and she enjoyed a career of unbroken success for fifty years. She made her final appearance in a benefit performance at the Hippodrome in 1861.

So poor Yates has been having gastric fever. I all but died of it 12 years ago in the middle of Pendennis. I am thankful I tided over that bad time, so as to save a little for the young ones. Laus Domino. Amen

Yours very truly
W M Thackeray.

1529.

TO FREDERICK WALKER
JANUARY? 1862 ¹

My text is taken from Marks, *Walker*, p. 24.

[*sketch*]

Children laughing at school-room door. Philip and Charlotte reading the letter.

1530.

TO FREDERICK WALKER
FEBRUARY? 1862 ²

My text is taken from Marks, *Walker*, p. 24.

Dear Mr. Walker, Will this do?

[*sketch*]

Old gentleman in thick shoes scratching a pig's back over a pigstye railing in his garden. Philip disgusted. Background, trees, cottages, villas, Hampstead Heath.

¹ Thackeray is describing "A Letter from New York," which Walker drew for *The Cornhill Magazine* of March, 1862.

² See "Mugford's Favorite" in *The Cornhill Magazine* of April, 1862.

1513. TO GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA
1 MARCH? 1862³

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a draft in Thackeray's hand on the back of p. 409 of the manuscript of *Philip* in the Huntington Library.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W.
Saturday.

Dear Mr. Sala

I will with great pleasure be your backer.

Always yours
W M Thackeray

1532. TO GEORGE SMITH
4 MARCH 1862

My text is taken from a facsimile published by Lady Ritchie, "The First Editor: and the Founder," *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, XXVIII (1910), opposite p. 4.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
March 4. 1862

My dear Smith.

I have been thinking over our conversation of yesterday, and it has not improved the gaiety of the work on w^h I am presently busy.

Today I have taken my friend Sir Charles Taylor into my confidence, and his opinion coincides with mine that I should withdraw from the Magazine. To go into bygones now is needless. Before ever the Magazine appeared, I was, as I have told you, on the point of writing such a letter as this: And whether connected with the Cornhill Magazine or not, I hope I shall always be

Sincerely your friend
W M Thackeray

³ Page 424 of the manuscript of *Philip* is written on the back of a letter of March 7, 1862, from the Secretary of the Reform Club to Thackeray, announcing that on March 13 Mr. Sala "seconded by you will be balloted for". It is possible that this note was written on Saturday, March 1.

1862

TO GEORGE SMITH

257

1533.

TO GEORGE SMITH

6 MARCH 1862

My text is taken from a facsimile published by Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, XXVIII, opposite p. 5.

36 Onslow Sq^e

March 6. 1862

My dear S.

I daresay your night, like mine, has been a little disturbed: but *Philip*⁴ presses and until this matter is over, I can't make that story so amusing as I would wish.

I had this pocket pistol⁵ in my breast yesterday but hesitated to pull the trigger at an old friend. My daughters are for a compromise. They say 'It is all very fine Sir Charles Taylor telling you to do so and so. Mr Smith has proved himself your friend always.' *Bien*. It is because I wish him to remain so, that I and the Magazine had better part company. Good bye and God bless you and all yours

W M T

⁴ Chapters 33 and 34, which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for April.

⁵ Thackeray's note of March 4, which was sent with this letter. Drafts of both are included in Thackeray's diary for this year.

1534.

TO JOSEPH SWAIN
MARCH 1862*Address:* M^r Swain | Bouverie St Hitherto unpublished.Dear M^r Swaine

Can some of your young men do me a pretty ○ 2 beehives
in a garden, & a moon behind.⁶ Mind the bees mustn't be out.

W M T

1535. TO CONTRIBUTORS AND CORRESPONDENTS
THE CORNHILL MAGAZINE
18 MARCH 1862⁷

My text is taken from Lady Ritchie, *Cornhill Magazine*, New Series, I, 14-15.

March 25, 1862

Ladies and Gentlemen (who *will* continue, in spite of the standing notice below, to send papers to the Editor's private residence)

⁶ The vignette initial letter of chapter 33 of *Philip*, which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* in April, 1862.

⁷ This letter is in the form of a yellow slip, which was laid into copies of *The Cornhill Magazine* for April, 1862.

— perhaps you will direct the postman to some other house, when you hear that the Editor of “The Cornhill Magazine” no longer lives in mine.

My esteemed successor lives at Number —, but I will not intrude upon the poor man’s brief interval of quiet. He will have troubles enough in that thorn-cushioned editorial chair⁸ which is forwarded to him this day by the Parcels (Happy) Delivery Company.

In our first number, ladies and gentlemen, I, your humble servant, likened himself to the captain of a ship, to which and whom I wished a pleasant voyage. Pleasant! Those who have travelled on shipboard know what a careworn, oppressed, uncomfortable man the captain is. Meals disturbed, quiet impossible, rest interrupted — such is the lot of captains. This one resigns his commission. I had rather have a quiet life than gold-lace and epaulets: and deeper than did ever plummet sound I fling my speaking trumpet.⁹ Once in a voyage to America I met a Sea-Captain who was passenger in the ship w^h he formerly had commanded. No man could be more happy, cheerful, courteous than this. He rode through the gale with the most perfect confidence in the ship and its Captain; he surveyed the storm as being another gentleman’s business: and his great delight was to be called at his watch to invoke a blessing on the steward’s boy who woke him, and to turn round in his crib and go to sleep again. Let my successor command the *Cornhill*, giving me always a passage on board; and if the Printer’s boy rings at my door of an early morning with a message that there are three pages wanting or four too much, I will send out my benediction to that Printer’s boy and take t’other half-hour’s doze.

Though Editor no more, I hope long to remain a contributor to my friend’s Magazine. I believe my own special readers will agree that my books will not suffer when their Author is released

⁸ See “Thorns in the Cushion” (*Works*, XII, 209–216).

⁹ An echo of *The Tempest*, V, i, 56–57:

Deeper than did ever plummet sound,
I’ll drown my book.

from the daily tasks of reading, accepting, refusing, losing and finding the works of other people. To say No has often cost me a morning's peace and a day's work. I tremble *recenti metu*.¹⁰ Oh, those hours of madness spent in searching for Louisa's lost lines to her dead Piping Bullfinch, for Nhoj Senoj's mislaid Essay! I tell them for the last time that the (late) Editor will not be responsible for rejected communications, and herewith send off the Chair and the great *Cornhill Magazine* Tin-box with its load of care.

Whilst the present tale of *Philip* is passing through the press, I am preparing another,¹¹ on which I have worked at intervals for many years past, and which I hope to introduce in the ensuing year; and I have stipulated for the liberty of continuing the little Essays which have amused the public and the writer, and which I propose to contribute from time to time to the pages of *The Cornhill Magazine*.

W. M. T.

1536. TO FREDERICK MULLETT EVANS

APRIL 1862¹²

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mr. Scheide, who owns the original.

Palace Green,
Kensington, W.

Note the address & tell them
about it for Wednesday you know.

Dear Evans

If you please that little account for Lady Day —

Yours

W M Thackeray

¹⁰ Horace, *Odes*, II, xix, 5.

¹¹ Thackeray originally intended that "The Knights of Borsellen" (see above, No. 193, note 4) rather than *Denis Duval* should succeed *Philip*.

¹² Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation, occurs on March 25. Thackeray did not move into his new home at Palace Green until March 31. This note was therefore written early in April.

1537. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY

21 APRIL 1862

Hitherto unpublished.

Easter Monday.

A fair passage. just enough not to be sick and to feel sick all the way in the train. No room at Bristol. Excellent quarters here. Sorry we didnt all come. Just come from R. Godot. Jane & Charlotte all right. Very good about William¹³ Very glad I came, I mean I am. The children like children. All gone to the grandes eaux at Versailles. Now I must and will go to work. So hot here dont know what to do with my great coat. I take it off and send my benediction.

W M T.

1538. TO STEPHEN SPRING RICE

APRIL? 1862

My text is taken from Francis Edwards's catalogue 620 (1938).

Cornhill Magazine

My dear S. S. R.,

I am no longer Editor yonder and MSS. sent to me must rely on their own merits and not on my advocacy wh^h is powerless.

Yours in a flurry

W. M. T.

I forward the MS with a private note to S. & Elder, doing my little possible.

¹³ William Ritchie, brother of Jane and Charlotte, had died on March 22, 1862.

1539.

TO ?
1 MAY 1862

Published in *The Athenæum*, June 20, 1891, p. 800.

Palace Green Kensington
May 1. 1862

Madam.

I dont know where the packet has been delayed, but I have only this moment found your note, dated Feb. 27, enclosing the most welcome autograph of Bishop Heber ¹⁴ w^h I regard with the very greatest interest and affection. He is one of the (literary) friends of my youth, when one likes people better than in later days — I used to read his book ¹⁵ when it appeared first, and recal my native Country. I was born; and my father and many of his brothers died in India; and please God that some of them too have left a name w^h is remembered affectionately there still.

Believe me
Your obliged faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

1540. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE
MAY 1862 ¹⁶

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 105.

My Dear Doubleyou Doubleyou,

I have just met a Trojan of the name of Trollope in the street (your ingenious note of last night kept me awake all night, be

¹⁴ Reginald Heber (1783–1826), Bishop of Calcutta from 1822 to 1826, whose career Thackeray sketches in his lecture on George IV (*Works*, VII, 707–708).

¹⁵ *Narrative of a Journey through India, 1824–1825* (1828).

¹⁶ This note was written shortly before May 13, 1862, when Thackeray noted in his appointment book that he had paid Syngé £600. From a further entry on May 15, it appears that Thackeray lent Syngé £1,000 in all, which was to be repaid in monthly installments. The transaction is explained by

hanged to you), and the upshot is that we will do what you want between us. My dear old Synge, come and talk to me on Friday before twelve.

1541.

TO MR. AND MRS. BAXTER

6?—9 MAY 1862

Published in *American Family*, pp. 175-178.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.

Friday. May 9.

My dear friends. I am glad to have a word of news of all of you, and that you should have wished to hear of me. I didn't write though I have thought of you many a time; and feared for you, lest the war should have brought it's calamity down upon you. Before that grief w^h I know must be in your house: what to say or to do? I know what your feelings are; loyal Northerns though you may be, with the daughter and grandchildren in the South who look at us out of our photograph book so innocent & pretty and then there's the bread winner, the warehouse — does the warehouse bring any rent now? I know & and feel that trying times are come on you all.

Some one called me away the other day when I wrote those last words and then I have been ill for 2 days and I was called away

Trollope (*Thackeray*, p. 60): "I heard once a story of woe from a man who was the dear friend of both of us. The gentleman wanted a large sum of money instantly — something under two thousand pounds — had no natural friends who could provide it, but must go utterly to the wall without it. Pondering over this sad condition of things just revealed to me, I met Thackeray between the two mounted heroes at the Horse Guards, and told him the story. 'Do you mean to say that I am to find two thousand pounds?' he said angrily, with some expletives. I explained that I had not even suggested the doing of anything — only that we might discuss the matter. Then there came over his face a peculiar smile, and a wink in his eye, and he whispered his suggestion, as though half ashamed of his meanness. 'I'll go half,' he said, 'if anybody will do the rest.' And he did go half, at a day or two's notice, though the gentleman was no more than simply a friend. I am glad to be able to add that the money was quickly repaid."

just as I was going to say something — Now tell me my dear kind good Baxter and wife — there may be troubles at home — no dividends — the deuce to pay. I know a fellow who is not rich, for he has spent all his money in building this fine house: all but a very little — but who knows? Draw on me for 500£ at 3 months after date: and I am your man. You wont be angry? You may be worth millions; and laugh at my impudence: — I dont know but I dont mean no harm. Only I remember and shall all my life the kindness and hospitality of the dear old brown house.

This one is delightful. I have paid 5000£ on it in 2 years out of income — but theres ever so much more to pay I dont know how much. When done however it will be a little income to the girl who inherits it and do you know I dont much care when she does.¹⁷ I am constantly ill — A Doctor told me at Paris t'other day that I had a fatal complaint and I wasn't very sorry. It turns out not to be true — but, but, but . . . Well upon my word it is one of the nicest houses I have ever seen — as good as Mr Haight's¹⁸ let us say — there is an old green and an old palace and magnificent trees before the windows at w^h I write. I have the most delightful study, bedroom, and so forth; can get 10£ for as much writing as there is on these 4 little sides, have a strong idea that in the next world I shan't be a bit better off — Well — since her husband's death my poor old mother is wandering about happy no where. I inherit from her this despondency I suppose — but have the pull over her of a strong sense of humour w^h gets plenty of cheerful laughs out of your glum old friend. Nobody

¹⁷ James Hannay (*Brief Memoir of the Late Mr. Thackeray*, pp. 29–30) relates that an Edinburgh friend who called on Thackeray in the summer of 1862, “knowing of old his love of the Venusian, playfully reminded him what Horace says of those who, regardless of their sepulchre, employ themselves in building houses: —

‘Sepulchri

Immemor, struis domos.’

‘Nay,’ said he, ‘I am *memor sepulchri*, for this house will always let for so many hundreds (mentioning the sum) a-year.’”

¹⁸ Thackeray is no doubt referring to the home at Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street of Richard K. Haight (*New York Directory*, 1853–1854), whose name appears on Mrs. Baxter's visiting list.

comes to marry the daughters. Every body is fond of them. I think they have been the happier for my having gone to America, where a good father & mother I know of used to tell me they liked their children to have 'a good time'

I saw the Bigelows at Paris last week — he as jolly as ever. Good bye God bless you Never mind if I dont write I may be lazy or moody but always affectionately yours

W M T.

1542.

TO FREDERICK CLAY¹⁹

MAY 1862

Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: Thackeray to Fred. Clay. 1862.

Palace Green,
Kensington, W.

Dear Clay.

Since I got your note, I have been ill and 1/2 mad with work. There's no ballot at the Garrick until Saturday 31, when I can put up M. Gautier²⁰ if he remains.

I daresay he quite forgets that he and I were acquainted in '48.

Ah, if you knew how difficult it is to make those verses! ²¹ — I tried and got only so far.

Boys

Doctor G. the Learned Warden
Of the College Covent Garden
Sends us little boys to greet you
And with cheery concinnation

¹⁹ Clay (1839–1889) was a composer of operettas who achieved his first success in 1862 with *Court and Cottage*. His best known score, which includes the ballad "I'll sing thee songs of Araby", he wrote for *Lalla Rookh* in 1877.

²⁰ Théophile Gautier (1811–1872), who was in England writing a series of articles on the "Exposition de Londres" for the *Moniteur universel*. They were published between May 4 and June 11, 1862.

²¹ Thackeray's verses appear to have been written for an entertainment at Evans's Hotel in Covent Garden. Dr. G. is Paddy Green, the proprietor; the College, his supper rooms; and the little boys, the lads he had trained to sing glees and madrigals.

And with hearty gratulation
Bids us meet you *Hoc in situ*.

?

Pupils we *something be*
Of the learned DOCTOR G.

Chorus
Doctor G &c

Men

We Professors of this college
And Academy of knowledge
Commiscentes seria joco.

Bid all people hearty welcome
Who to Doctor G's hotel come.

Bid you welcome *hoc in loco*! (Chorus)

Welcome all the world, says he

Doctor G, Dont you see?

To the Hall of *Doctor G*.

Fiddle diddle diddledee.

But dont you see it's too long because the point is to come (w^h
I have not made yet) and this gives them 64 lines to sing — Thence
the delay —

Yours ever

W M Thackeray.

1543.

TO GEORGE SMITH

MAY 1862 ²²

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

My dear Smith,

I can only find this scrap of paper. I grieve for the meagreness of two of the pages of Philip;²³ and am most vexed at the lateness of the whole thing. I began early enough at Paris where I was forced to go, and fell ill — came home and fell ill again, and after these attacks can't write for 2 days, forget the sentence I put down

²² Thackeray's diaries show that he was in Paris in April, 1862, but not in April, 1861, the only other year during which he was writing *Philip*.

²³ Chapters 37 and 38 for June.

on paper, grow awfully nervous. Chester was misled about computing the MS. I thought all was done when I went down to the printing office yesterday. My stars what a state I was in, when I found there were 3 pages wanting!

It is seven o'clock in the morning and I vow I'll go to work on July,²⁴ as soon as I have had a cup of tea.

Yours,

W. M. T.

1544. TO SIR WILLIAM WELLESLEY KNIGHTON²⁵

31 MAY 1862

Address: Sir W. Knighton Bart | 38 Gloucester Place | Portman Sq^{re}. *Postmark:* LONDON MY 31 62. Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Knighton

I take up my pen (a new gold one price 2/6^d) to say that on our return home, I went to the Ballet and asked for M^r Orrid, w^h he was absent on leave. Our best regards to Lady K & respects to George IV.



²⁴ Chapters 39 and 40.

²⁵ Second Baronet (1811-1885), son of Sir William Knighton (d. 1836), keeper of George IV's privy purse. He had married Clementina Jameson in 1838.

My dear Knighton.²⁶ This is why my letters dont go. I write and keep 'em in my pocket I am so glad you are coming and am always your friend and condisciple

W M T.

1545.

TO FREDERICK WALKER

15 JUNE 1862

My text is taken from a facsimile in Marks's *Walker*, p. 25.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.
June 15.

Dear Mr Walker

For August I mean.

Philip, the Little Sister, and the 2 Little Children saying their prayers in an old fashioned church pew not Gothic.²⁷

The Church is the one in Queen Square Bloomsbury, if you are curious to be exact.

The motto

PRO CONCESSIS BENEFICIIS.

and that will bring the story to an end. I am sorry its over. And you?

Always yours

W M T.

²⁶ This paragraph and Thackeray's signature are written in the flap of the envelope.

²⁷ Walker's final illustration for *Philip*, and one of the best known of all his drawings, is "Thanksgiving", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for August, 1862.

1546.

TO MR. DURHAM

30 JUNE 1862²⁸Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: June | 62.

Monday

Dear Durham

Am I coming or not? I *am* engaged 2 deep but one is an evening party to hear Levassor²⁹ w^h my girls can go to without me, one a concert & supper at Twickenham, the Duke d'Aumale's³⁰ at 10-1. Now I can come or not to you as you will. I mean if you have filled my place say so at once. Better for my health perhaps not. Send a line upstairs to say YES or NO to

Yours

W M Thackeray

1547.

TO GEORGE SMITH

1 JULY 1862

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, liii.

Palace Green, July 1, 1862.

The Cornhill Magazine,
Smith, Elder & Co.

My Dear S. — I think 'Philip' *tout court* is better than the 'Adventures of &c.' and that a running title on every other page as in 'Esmond' will give a little freshness to the reprint. I shall have done D. V. to-day or to-morrow.

²⁸ The party at Twickenham took place on Saturday, July 5. This note was written the previous Monday.

²⁹ Nicolas Prosper Levasseur (1791-1871), a famous basso whom Thackeray had often heard at Paris in the operas of Meyerbeer and Rossini.

³⁰ Henri d'Orléans (1822-1897), Duc d'Aumale, fifth son of Louis Philippe, who passed most of his time in England between 1848 and 1870. The large fortune he had inherited from the Prince de Condé enabled him to entertain lavishly, and he was very popular in London society.

Sitting in this beautiful room, surrounded by ease and comfort and finishing the story, I stop writing for a minute or two, with rather a full heart.

Will you let Lawrence make another drawing of you? I should like to hang it here.

Always yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

1548. TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
5 JULY 1862

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, XI, xli, xlvi; additions in *Thackeray and his Daughter*, pp. 125-127. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

Palace Green, Kensington.

July 5th, 1862.

My dearest old Mother gets the budget from the girls and the history of all our doings. On Thursday at 6.15 p.m. after working all day I wrote Finis to Philip: rather a lame ending. Yesterday I spent all day in great delectation and rest of mind making a very bad drawing. Young Walker who is twenty does twice as well: and at twenty you know we all thought I was a genius at drawing. O the mistakes people make about themselves! Then at 5 we drive down like persons of quality in our pretty new (paid for) carriage with our "gens" on the box to the Aumale Fête at Twickenham where I daresay the Dukes and Duchesses would have admired my new lavender gloves (price 2/-) very much, only I forgot 'em and left them in my great coat pocket. Never mind it was a beautiful fête and I am all the better this morning because I could only get a crust to eat and a scrap of galantine left in a lady's plate and a bottle of excellent claret. And did the girls tell you, how I had no dinner the day before, having to take them to the *Barbieri*³¹ (a new opera by Mr. Rossini) and where I had

³¹ *Il Barbieri di Siviglia* was given at the Royal Italian Opera House on July 3, with Adelina Patti as Rosina (*Times*).

a most refreshing sleep in the back of the box. And this is our life: and now there is a little lull after a constant care and occupation. No, by the way, not yet quite. Mr. Smith says "Do, pray write a Roundabout paper." And that,³² you see, is churning in my brain, whilst I am writing off a scrap to my dear old Mother. Mesdemoiselles who were up actually till 12 last night, could not be ready for prayers, so I was parson and I can tell you one person of the Congregation was very thankful for our preservation and all the blessings of this life which have fallen to me.

Think of the beginning of the story of the little Sister in the Shabby Genteel Story twenty years ago and the wife crazy and the Publisher refusing me 15£ who owes me £13.10 and the Times to which I apply for a little more than 5 guineas for a week's work, refusing to give me more and all that money difficulty ended, God be praised, and an old gentleman sitting in a fine house like the hero at the end of a story! ³³

The actual increase of health and comfort since we got into the Palazzo is quite curious. I am certainly much better in body. I think the novel-writing vein is used up though and you may be sure some kind critics will say as much for me before long. Anny's

³² "*De Finibus*", which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for August, 1862.

³³ This contrast came frequently to Thackeray's mind in later years. William Holman Hunt (*Pre-Raphaelitism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood*, 2 vols., New York, 1906, II, 195-196) relates that not long after he sold "The Finding of Christ in the Temple" for 5,500 guineas in 1860, he met Thackeray in the Cosmopolitan Club and was warmly congratulated on his good fortune. When he replied that the picture had taken him years to complete and that he was burdened with heavy obligations to his family, Thackeray said: "then you know what it is to have claims upon your harvestings before they are gathered in perhaps, and I daresay you know something of other than blood relations who say 'Give, give, give, but count not me the herd' — the thought of them makes me wince . . . Yes, I know them all . . . with their constant reminders of your 'lucky star,' and that they were not born with your golden spoon, and how everything has been against them. Well, well,' he said with a half-amused sigh, 'they are a dispensation of Providence by which we are brought to reflect upon poor human nature, but then 5500 guineas at thirty-three, that is a good turning point in a man's fortune; I remember when I was about the same age I had been writing for some months for [*Fraser's Magazine*], and the magazine had, in consequence of my contributions, been restored from a state of near collapse to increasing

style is admirable³⁴ and Smith and Elder are in raptures about it. But she is very modest and I am mistrustful too. I am sure I shan't love her a bit better for being successful. They are both of them beginning to bewail their Virginité in the mountains:³⁵ and seem to be much excited because Ella Merivale who is only 17 has had 3 or 4 lovers already and is doubting between 2 who are imploring her. Here comes Mr. Langley with the proofs which must be read and there is a good morning's work over them. And then that Roundabout Paper — a plague on it.

"Mr. Langley, where is the Cicero? in 2 volumes quarto. I want a quotation out of it". Mr. Langley maunders along the room helplessly. He wont find it: I shall: and he will be persuaded that he found it and that I cant possibly get on without him.

I wonder shall we make out the Petersburg journey? I have a fancy for it because it will pay itself in a couple of papers that will be as easy to write as letters and wont wear and tear the brains. Then we must do some more work. I think the Story which I began 20 years ago³⁶ and then, and then, On — Did you read about poor Buckle when he got the Fever at Damascus crying out "O my book, my book!"³⁷ I dont care enough about mine to be

stability; at that juncture my wife fell ill, and the doctors assured me that she must be taken for a month to the sea-side. I had no funds for this, and thinking it not unreasonable, I wrote to the editor: 'Dear Sir, I am in severe need of ready money, I shall be sending the usual copy for the end of the month, could you oblige me by advancing me £20 on the forthcoming contribution to your magazine, and thus greatly oblige, W. M. T.'

"The reply was prompt, it was to the effect that the editor had made a rule never to pre-pay his writers, and that he was obliged to adhere to his regulation. You needn't, my dear fellow, be any longer thus driven from pillar to post to get such a sum, and I am sincerely glad of it. . . . But you are, after all, a lucky dog, for you have something more than a miserable remnant or salvage of a life in which to do your work.'"

³⁴ In *The Story of Elizabeth*, her first novel, published in *The Cornhill Magazine* from September, 1862, to January, 1863. Thackeray never read this story. "I couldn't," he told Fanny Kemble (*Records of Later Life*, p. 627). "It would tear my guts out!"

³⁵ *Judges*, II, 38.

³⁶ "The Knights of Borsellen".

³⁷ Buckle reached Damascus on May 18, 1862, and died there of typhoid fever eleven days later. He was thinking of the volumes of his *History of Civilization* (1857-1861) that he was never to write.

disquieted when that day comes. Shall I live to do the big history? Who knows? But I think I shall live to work on it, if the time is left me. God bless you, dear old Mother, I don't write to you by post, but I am writing through the printer all day long and the song is always Ego, Ego, God bless us all — and now come Mr. Langley and let us go through those proofs and all the blunders.

W. M. T.

1549. TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
20 JULY 1862³⁸

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

My dear old Mother ought to have had a line on that celebrated anniversary but my birthday has occurred so often now that I am almost ashamed of it, at least wont look at it as any day more fortunate or wonderful than the rest. I went to a dinner of painters in honour of the Belgian artist M. Gallait;³⁹ and had to speak and strange to say came away without a headache. Anny was unwell, Minny was away in the country with the Coles or we might have gone to Lady Harrington's⁴⁰ ball in our street. I awoke at 3 with the noise of the carriages and looked out of the window and saw the dandies tripping home. On Saturday Mr. Leech gave us a feast at Richmond. We shall break up suddenly now I think and I fancy Folkestone as lovely a place as any for us but who knows it may be Scarborough or Malvern or Petersburg or Devonshire.⁴¹ I should like to see the dismal old country again but then the air is depressing and you get no good from your holyday.

³⁸ This note was written the Sunday after Friday, July 18, 1862.

³⁹ Louis Gallait (1810–1887), an historical painter of some repute whom Thackeray may have known in the eighteen-thirties when both were young men in Paris studying art.

⁴⁰ The former Elizabeth Green (1811–1898), who had married Leicester Fitzgerald Charles Stanhope (1784–1862), fifth Earl of Harrington, in 1831. The Harringtons lived at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

⁴¹ See below, Appendix XXII.

1550. TO ALBANY FONBLANQUE
AUGUST 1862

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mr. Parrish, who owns the original.

(Palace Green,
Kensington, W.)

Dear Fonblanque

Please to answer this and oblige

Your faithful W M T.

Who are your favourite heroines in novels? ⁴²

1551. TO MRS. PROCTER
AUGUST 1862

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XX, xxiii.

Palace Green,
Kensington, W.

Please answer this and oblige

Your faithful

W. M. T.

Who are your favourite heroes in Novels? ⁴³

⁴² "How do you like your heroes, ladies?" Thackeray writes in "On a Peal of Bells" (*Cornhill Magazine*, September, 1862; *Works*, XII, 381). "Gentlemen, what novel heroines do you prefer? When I set this essay going, I sent the above question to two of the most inveterate novel-readers of my acquaintance. The gentleman refers me to Miss Austen; the lady says Athos, Guy Livingstone, and (pardon my rosy blushes) Colonel Esmond, and owns that in youth she was very much in love with Valancourt." Guy Livingstone was the hero of the novel of that name published in 1857 by George Alfred Lawrence (1827-1876).

⁴³ Part of Mrs. Procter's reply is printed by Lady Ritchie (*Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XX, xxiii-xxiv): "This subject, Heroes, is one that interests me greatly. Some years ago, when Sir Cornwall Lewis was Editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, I wrote an article on 'Novels written by Women.'



MRS. PROCTER IN OLD AGE
From a photograph



THACKERAY IN 1863

From photographs

1552.

TO DR. ELLIOTSON

22 SEPTEMBER 1862? ⁴⁴

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green. Monday 22

Mr & the Misses Pendennis request the honor of Doctor Goodenoughs company to dinner tomorrow as ever is at 7 o'clock. Dont send an answer Come if you can — saw you going to Collins's just now.

The object being to show how poorly all women had drawn men. That one looked to their works for the perfect hero — and that they all failed — he was either a milk-sop or a bully. . . . See Miss Brontë, Mrs. Gaskell, Miss Muloch [Dinah Maria Muloch, later Mrs. Craik, author of *John Halifax, Gentleman* (1856)], Mrs. Lewes. It is not necessary to say how admirably it was written — or that my article was returned. The concluding sentence was:—

'Esmond, the truest hero that the world ever saw.'

Did not this article deserve printing?

Athos — Guy Livingstone — George Warrington.

I saw a short time since some papers filled up in a game, [where] you mentioned your favourite book, colour, flower, hero, &c., &c. The greater proportion of women named Dobbin.

Adelaide says Claverhouse.

When I was young Valancourt was my hero.

Yr. affect. old friend,

Anne B. Procter.

Friday,

32 Weymouth Street, W.

Hazlitt has written an article on heroes — in which he says how one generally prefers the second man in a book — the author pressing the first one too much on you."

⁴⁴ Elliotson figures as Dr. Goodenough in *Pendennis*, *The Newcomes*, and *Philip*. This note was probably written on Monday, September 22, 1862, shortly after the conclusion of the last of these novels.

1553.

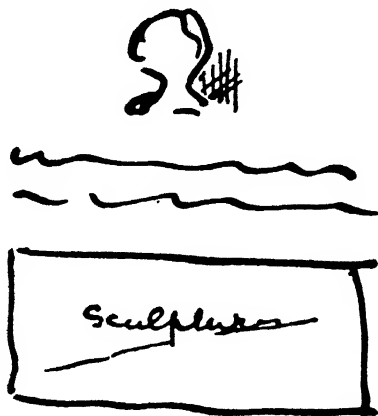
TO MRS. WILLIAM RITCHIE

3 NOVEMBER 1862

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green. Kensington
Monday. Nov^r 3.My dear M^{rs} Ritchie.

I have been to see M^r Foley,⁴⁵ who indeed is as distinguished a sculptor as any we have, and have talked to him about the marble for your dear William. I told him the state of the case and the plan proposed by your friend M^r Hogg. For 300£ very little indeed can be done: for 500£ a handsome monument with a bust, or head in very high relief, and on the slab beneath an allegorical sculpture. The smaller monument would be more especially inappropriate on account of its high position over the door where the sculpture details would hardly be visible. M^r F. showed me a very handsome and effective monument for India of an officer who fell in an assault on Lucknow, the likeness overhead, the epitaph and name following



⁴⁵ John Henry Foley (1818–1874), R. A., a Victorian sculptor particularly admired for his equestrian statues and sepulchral monuments.

and then the sculpture. I should like to hear of the scholarship too to perpetuate his name. But if some 200£ more are wanting could not some of us make it up? My purse is not long but I can find 30, 40, or 50£ there to help raise a fitting record of that good man.

I am for making up the 200£ at home, taking the 300 from Calcutta: and *not* diminishing the Charitable foundation.

We ought to have a photograph of the arch & door of the Calcutta Cathedral: or a drawing.

It is very likely I shall come and see you all before many days are over. Anny is going to the Isle of Wight with some friends. She is not very well: and is very modest, thank God, whilst everybody is praising her.

1554.

TO GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

17 NOVEMBER 1862

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green. Kensington

Monday 17 Nov^r

My dear Cruikshank

I have been laid on my back for three days and am only just out of bed. So I couldnt come to the private View on Saturday but wish every success to the public ditto.

Yours

W M Thackeray

1555.

TO ?

NOVEMBER 1862?

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green,

Kensington. W.

Thursday. Nov^r ?

My dear Sir

Your volume and the kind note accompanying it were put into a room of the house w^h I seldom frequent and only discovered

after many days. I didn't want to write and thank you for the book until I had read again many pieces w^h I liked and remember. Your second note came to me just as I was in labour with some verses of my own;⁴⁶ and, when I'm in that condition, and until the little bantling is born, I neglect my duties my letters, even my invitations to dinner.

My baby finally made its appearance last night, and I have leisure to thank you for sending me yours, and am

dear Sir faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

1556.

TO THE BAXTERS

25 DECEMBER 1862

My text is taken from *American Family*, pp. 178-180.

Palace Green
Kensington, W.
Christmas Day, 1862

My dear Friends. The sad letter has been here for many days. I had the news⁴⁷ before from Mr. John Dillon,⁴⁸ who has friends in the South. I have not had the courage to write to you about it. I know there is no consolation. I lost a child myself once, that's enough to say that I understand your grief. That journey of Lucy and her father is the saddest thing I have read of for many a long day. I look at Sarah's face in the photograph book and then at a print w^h I have had for many years because it was like her when I first saw her. My friend Miss Perry was telling me how she had just read an old letter of mine to her dear sister (who is dead⁴⁹ too, and who was one of the dearest

⁴⁶ Probably "Mrs. Katherine's Lantern", which Thackeray wrote for the album of Dickens's daughter, Mrs. Perugini. These lines were first published in *The Cornhill Magazine* of January, 1867, pp. 117-118.

⁴⁷ Of Mrs. Hampton's death. See *Memoranda*, The Baxters.

⁴⁸ John Blake Dillon.

⁴⁹ Mrs. Elliot had died on January 4, 1859.

friends I ever had) and how there was a description of this New York girl. What a bright creature! What a laugh, a life, a happiness! And it is all gone; and you dear people sit bewailing your darling. The letters she sent to me at rare times were awfully sad. In that photograph how sad she looks! As for those little children, those two we know — we three in this house love them both. Ever since they came to us they have been in the girls' sitting room, and the Belle of the West ⁵⁰ is yonder in mine. How well I remember that first look of her, with the red ribbon in her hair! and next is that sad matron, and next your letter. What a warm welcome, what a kindly fireside, what kind faces round it — and hers the brightest of all! Amen. Dear mourning father, mother, sister we can only shake you by the hand, and pray God comfort you. . . . I have been thinking in this pause of that hospitable table in your dining room, and the Spirits moving about; and looking up wistfully in this big lone room, lest a form should make itself visible.

This morning I was lying awake in the grey looking out at the elms, and thinking of your dear Sarah. God be with us. I don't feel much care about dying. As we love our children, won't our Father love us? Dear friends I have been so happy in my home, and in yours that I can feel for the grief which now bears you down. God bless you all.

Yours affectionately always
W. M. Thackeray

I don't talk a word of politics to you. I was touched by Young saying kind words of me in his paper.⁵¹

⁵⁰ See above, No. 1486 and illustration opposite p. 216.

⁵¹ *The New York Albion*.

1557.

TO DR. ELLIOTSON

12 JANUARY 1863

Extract published, *Notes and Queries*, Sixth Series, IV (1881), 507.Palace Green,
Kensington, W.

Monday 12. January.

My dear Doctor

Charles Collins¹ and his pretty wife John Leech and his ditto ditto have promised to dine here on Sunday next 18th being the 2^d Sunday after Epiphany. Won't you come and meet them at 7 o'clock? You shall have spinachi patati and cavolfiori, or roast beef if you like, or anything you shall please to go for to order, and you will give pleasure to

Your grateful
W M Thackeray.

P. S. Just as you went away the other day, I thought of a merry jape, w^h I would have played on you but you were gone.

Q. Why is John Elliotson M. D. (Camb) like a whalebone rod with the lump of lead at each end?

A. Because he is a Life Preserver.

1558.

TO SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK?

21 JANUARY 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Kensington. January 21.

My dear Sir

I should have liked extremely the dinner & the fireside and the company enjoying them: but I have promised my mother to go to an early tea-party with her: and sacrifice myself accordingly.

very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

¹ Charles Allston Collins (1828-1873), brother of Wilkie Collins, a former member of the "Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood" who had given up painting for literature. He married Kate Dickens in 1860.

If you & the L.C.B.² will drink my health, I will ruefully drink your's in a bumper of bohea.

1559.

TO ?

4 FEBRUARY 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green.

Kensington.W.

Feb 4. 1863

Madam.

L. Fardel when he lived with me was a very honest sober & respectable man, and I am glad to hear that his health has mended

Your obdt Serv^t

W M Thackeray

1560.

TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN

9 MARCH 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green.Kensington W.

March 9. 1863

My dear Primrose.

I forget the name of the Bath gentleman who lent me Sterne's lying M S journal to M^{rs} Draper.³ One of the most curious lies I think I told you. He writes to Eliza that he was dreadfully ill had ever so much blood taken from him but nevertheless was ever and ever his Eliza's. In the printed letters there is one (a plague on the people I have been looking for 1/4 hour in vain for my Sterne) addressed from the Mount Coffee House to a Lady C. without any date but he makes tremendous love to her blasphemous about the Lords prayer & being led into temptation and winds up by saying

² If this note is indeed to Sir Frederick Pollock, "L. C. B." is probably Thackeray's facetious way of referring to his wife, the "Lady Chief Baroness".

³ See above, No. 795.

if she wont let him come to drink tea he will go to Miss C's benefit that night.

I looked out in the Theatrical Register (pardon forgetting dates names & so forth) on what day in 176+ whatdyecallem — a Miss C had a benefit. I found it was on the very day when Sterne was writing to M^{rs} Draper to say he was so dreadful ill.

Then there is the lie in Dutens memoirs w^h I quoted in a Roundabout paper ⁴ — all w^h doesn't prevent the scamp from being a great man

I should like to see your old countenance again We have a snug little bachelors room remember when you are minded to try it.

Always yours

W M T.

P. S. Letter XCII. dated Mount Coffee House Tuesday

91 is dated April 9. 1767.

The actress is only mentioned as Miss *** I looked out to see what actress had a benefit on Tuesday in April or March 67.

⁴ Thackeray omitted the passage of "Notes of a Week's Holiday" (*Cornhill Magazine*, November, 1860) in which this story is told when he published *The Roundabout Papers* as a book. Professor Wells reprints the excised paragraphs in his edition of *The Roundabout Papers* (pp. 384-386).

1863

TO LORD GRANVILLE

283

1561.

TO LORD GRANVILLE

17 MARCH 1863

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a facsimile in Tregaskis's catalogue 857 (1922).

Palace Green. Kensington



Palace Green. Kensington



Feast of St Patrick. 1863

Feast of St Patrick. 1863.

Dear Lord Granville

Pardon me for not answering your kind note yesterday. I was at work the whole day, and forgot everything but my task. I am engaged to a literary confrère, and am very sorry that I cannot dine with you on Saturday 21st

most faithfully yours

W M Thackeray

1562.

TO MRS. WILLIAM RITCHIE

18 MARCH 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green. Kⁿ

March 18. 1863

My dear M^{rs} Ritchie

Since the royal marriage w^h you know all about I have been like a mad man over an article ⁵ in w^h I didnt know what on earth to say. It is just done and I am on my way to the Printer's — and send you a line en route.

I saw M^r Foley on Wednesday. He had begun nothing: but we concluded for the medallion portrait ⁶ &c as described before and 500 £.

1563.

TO MRS. MARTIN

24 MARCH 1863

My text is taken from Waugh's *Athenæum Club*, p. 59.

March 24th.

My dear Neighbouress, — I am so pleased to hear about T. M.'s election ⁷ that I must spend a penny and congratulate his wife. You remember my name don't you? The tall man in Spectacles who used to live in the Square,



⁵ "On Alexandrines," a Roundabout Paper concerning the marriage of Princess Alexandra of Denmark to the Prince of Wales on March 10 which appeared in *The Cornhill Magazine* for April.

⁶ Under *medallion portrait* Thackeray has written *the photograph*. Foley's bust of William Ritchie now stands in Calcutta Cathedral. For the inscription carved upon it, see *Ritchies in India*, p. 245.

⁷ Theodore Martin's election to the Athenæum Club.

1564. TO THOMAS JAMES THACKERAY?
MARCH 1863

Address: Mr Thackeray | Girard House. Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W

My dear Thackeray

We are going into Yorkshire at Easter ⁸ and have a mind to visit the birth place of the Thackerays. Where is it? Will you tell

Yours
W M T.

⁸ Thackeray's diary for 1863 shows that he and his daughters visited the Milnes at Fryston Hall from April 6 to 13 and then went on to Hampsthwaite, near Harrowgate, the native town of the Thackeray family. They found "a distinguished party assembled at Fryston," writes Sir Edmund Gosse (*The Life of Algernon Charles Swinburne*, New York, 1917, pp. 95-96); "it included Venables, James Spedding, [and] the newly appointed Archbishop of York (William Thomson) . . . Lady Ritchie recalls for me that the Houghtons stimulated the curiosity of their guests by describing the young poet [Swinburne] who was to arrive later. She was in the garden on the afternoon of his arrival, and she saw him advance up the sloping lawn, swinging his hat in his hand, and letting the sunshine flood the bush of his red-gold hair. He looked like Apollo or a fairy prince; and immediately attracted the approval of Mr. Thackeray by the wit and wisdom of his conversation, as much as that of the two young ladies by his playfulness. On Sunday evening, after dinner, he was asked to read some of his poems. His choice was injudicious; he is believed to have recited 'The Leper'; it is certain that he read 'Les Noyades'. At this the Archbishop of York made so shocked a face that Thackeray smiled and whispered to Lord Houghton, while the two young ladies, who had never heard such sentiments expressed before, giggled aloud in their excitement. Their laughter offended the poet, who, however, was soothed by Lady Houghton's tactfully saying, 'Well, Mr. Swinburne, if you *will* read such extraordinary things, you must expect us to laugh.' 'Les Noyades' was then proceeding on its amazing course, and the Archbishop was looking more and more horrified, when suddenly the butler — 'like an avenging angel,' as Lady Ritchie says — threw open the door and announced, 'Prayers! my Lord!'

"Lady Ritchie dwells on Swinburne's 'kind and cordial ways' during this amusing visit to Fryston. She had never seen anybody so disconcerting or so charming, and when Thackeray and his daughters had to take their leave, while Swinburne remained at Fryston, the . . . author of *The Story of Elizabeth* burst into tears. The friendship so begun continued until the day of the

1565.

TO LADY LONDONDERRY

1 MAY 1863⁹Facsimile published in *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 129-130.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.

Dear Lady Londonderry

I shall be delighted, if you will promise not to put me next to Mrs Strange Jocelyn. The last time I met her at your house (and goodness mercy knows why) she cut me as dead as ever she could cut. Now suppose, in your kindness and innocence, you were to say 'Mr &c take the Hon^{ble} Mrs Strange Soandso to dinner,' and she were to begin cutting me over again? What a painful repast all of us would have, especially poor W M T! T.o.s.v.p.¹⁰

I am just going out after my day's work, to buy myself a gold shirt button, and prevent the painful necessity of being *sown up* as I was at London House last night.

Yours very sincerely.

W M Thackeray



Suppose it had been a poor curate anxious to make a favorable impression on his bishop? What a state the poor fellow would have been in when obliged to ask to be *sown up* by the housekeeper!

poet's death, though they met rarely. It appears from Lady Ritchie's recollections that Thackeray must have been shown some of Swinburne's MS. poems by Lord Houghton, for he expressed his admiration of them. He died, as we know, a few months later, too soon to see any of them in print, except those which were printed in the *Spectator* in the course of this year, 1862."

⁹ Thackeray dined at London House on April 30, 1863. This note appears to have been written the next day.

¹⁰ Turn over *s'il vous plaît*.

1566.

TO MRS. JAMES
MAY 1863¹

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.
Saturday (but I own too late
for post)

My dear M^{rs} James

I wish I could accept your kindness but I have been stopping at 3 country houses in the last 2 months, have got into awful arrears with my work, and must go away somewhere alone where I shall be forced to work. I know what it is. A Study & a Bedroom won't do. I should go to sleep on the bed and write nothing. I have done nothing for a WHOLE YEAR and I MUST go to my horrible pens & paper.

Aha. What has W M J been writing about to the Times? I am his and

Yours always
W M T.

The infantas are under agreement to go to the I of Wight, I am going to separate from them & be alone alone alone.

1567.

TO CHARLES HEATH
13 JUNE 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.
June 13. 1863.

My dear Heath.

I have had such kindness from you and your's that I can't but sympathize with any sorrow w^h befals your family. My girls and

¹ This letter was written shortly after Thackeray began *Denis Duval*, for which see below, No. 1574.

I tender you our most sincere condolences. We have lost one of the kindest friends we have ever had. I write but half a dozen lines to say how I feel for your grief, and am always my dear Heath

Gratefully & truly yours
W M Thackeray

1568.

TO ?

21 JUNE 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green Kensington
June 21.

Gentlemen

I am engaged to dine at the Mansion House on the 5 of July, or I should have had great pleasure in attending at your dinner.

Believe me very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

1569. TO SIR WILLIAM AND LADY KNIGHTON

20 JULY 1863¹¹

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green,
Kensington. W.
July 20.

My dear Sir and Madam

My foot was actually uplifted to quit the shore of Albion, when the morning's post brought your obliging invitation which instantly caused me to turn back again. We shall be delighted to come to you for Goodwood. As for the cup, your best Claret I daresay is good enough for me, though if you hear of any better, I don't wish you not to send for it. My name it is needless to add. It is that of a man

¹¹ Thackeray's diary for 1863 shows that he visited the Knighton's country house at Blendworth, near Horndean, in Hampshire on July 29 of that year.

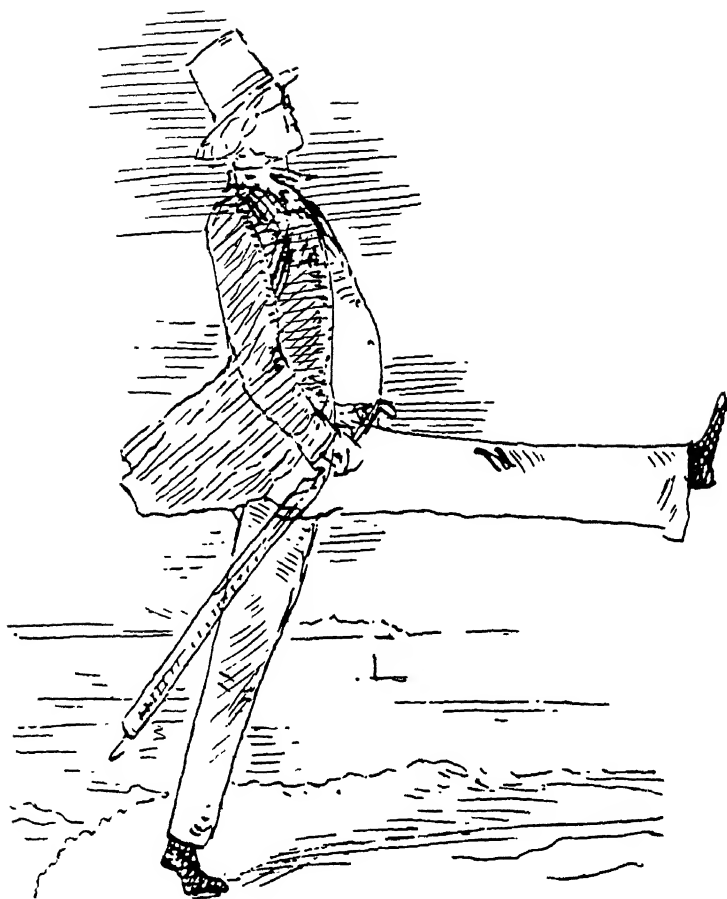
Palace Green,
Hensington, W.

July 20.



My dear Sir and Madam

My foot was actually uplifted to quit
the shore of Albion, when the morning post
brought your obliging invitation which instantly



caused me to turn back again. We shall be delighted to come to you for
 good words. As for the Cup, your best Christ I dare say is good enough for me
 though if you hear of any better, I don't wish you not to send for it, all the same
 it is needless to add. It is that of a man who has his faults I dare say (though I
 never found 'em) and who is yours & Lady Knighton's always eternally attached.
 P.S. allow them what a quantity of aerial perspective I have given you for the money!!!

who has his faults I daresay (though *I* never found 'em,) and who is yours & Lady Knighton's always etcetera &c &c

P. S. Mon Dieu what a quantity of aerial perspective I have given you for the money! ! !

1570.

TO MRS. PROCTER

AUGUST 1863 ¹²

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript given Lady Ritchie by George Murray Smith.

The Athenaeum.

Milnes has got his peerage — says a little bird
Ain't you very glad of it — Yes upon my word.
Pretty little Robin? ¹³ — now there is no doubt on
Is the eldest son of Richard M Lord Houghton.

1571.

TO MRS. CASPAR WISTAR ¹⁴

4 SEPTEMBER 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

Palace Green. Kensington.

S. W. September 4. 63

Dear M^{rs} Wister

The publisher (M^r Chapman & Hall) and your faithless correspondent have both been out of town, hence a delay in the matter of your story.¹⁵

When I left him a month ago, he said the story would make 2

¹² Milnes was created Baron Houghton on August 20, 1863.

¹³ Robert Offley Ashburton Milnes (b. 1858), later second Baron Houghton (1885), first Earl of Crewe (1895), and first Marquess of Crewe and Earl of Madeley (1911).

¹⁴ See above, No. 949, note 75.

¹⁵ This note is written on the back of a sample page for a novel, headed "From Dan to Beersheba" and dealing with Yankee and Confederate characters.

volumes and he would give 100£ — w^h is little, but w^h is a very good beginning. Now, I am sorry to say the news is not so good.

It would make 550 pages printed like this, and this is not enough. If we had a proper-sized page viz 1000 letters in a page — your story would want 204 pages of the requisite 640.

It can only make one volume: and for this 40£ is as much as can be given. Will you take £ 40?

We had such a pleasant visit to your Aunt in her new kingdom in Hampshire. How I wish I had not sold my American Shares until now.¹⁶ I am ashamed of not having written before. Yours always

W M Thackeray.

1572.

TO MR. ALEXANDER

SEPTEMBER 1863

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Alexander

Now that the milk is spilt there is no use crying. When I heard that M^r Gladstones¹⁷ man withdrew, I wrote to him, said I wasn't authorized: that you would not ask yourself; that you were a trump; (w^h Admiral Fitzroy¹⁸ says so too) and without a word of complaint, hinted that the place ought to be your's: but its all no use. I couldnt write to the Duke: because I knew him once & he has forgotten me — and so he has a much more deserving man than

Yours

W M T.

¹⁶ See above, No. 988, note 175.

¹⁷ This note is written on the last page of a letter of September 21, 1863, from Gladstone to Thackeray, stating that the latter's recommendation of Alexander had been passed along to Edward Adolphus St. Maur (1804-1885), twelfth Duke of Somerset, then First Lord of the Admiralty.

¹⁸ Admiral Robert Fitzroy (1805-1865), author with Darwin of the *Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of H. M. Ships Adventure and Beagle* (1839).

1573.

TO DR. JOHN BROWN

23 SEPTEMBER 1863

Published in part, *Biographical Introductions*, XII, xxviii. My text is taken from *Letters of Dr. John Brown*, p. 332.

Palace Green, Kensington, September 23.

My dear J. B. — I am very glad you like my little Min. With her and her Sister I have led such a happy life, that I am afraid almost as I think of it, lest any accident should disturb it. She seems to be enjoying herself greatly; but when she has done with the Lows, I think she ought to come back to her Papa and sister. We three get on so comfortably together, that the house is not the house, when one is away. I know how kind you and your children would be to her. But Anny wants her companion, and a month will give her as much change of air as, please God, will be good for her. I have done no work for a whole year and must now set to at this stale old desk, or there will be no beef and mutton. I have spent too much money on this fine house, besides gim-cracks, furniture, China, plate, the deuce knows what. . . . If I don't mistake there was a man who lived at Abbotsford overhoused himself. I am not in debt, thank my stars, but instead of writing to you why am I not writing the history of Denis Duval, Esq., Admiral of the White Squadron? Because I don't know anything about the sea and seamen, and get brought up by my ignorance every other page; above all, because I am lazy, so lazy that a couple of dozen would do me good. Good-bye, my dear J.B. — My love to the children from your grateful old friend,

W. M. T.

1574.

TO GEORGE SMITH
SEPTEMBER? 1863

My text is taken from Frederick Greenwood's "Notes on Denis Duval", *Cornhill Magazine*, IX (1864), 657.

My dear S., —

I was born in the year 1764, at Winchelsea, where my father was a grocer and clerk of the church.¹⁹ Everybody in the place was a good deal connected with smuggling.

There used to come to our house a very noble French gentleman, called the COUNT DE LA MOTTE, and with him a German, the BARON DE LUTTERLOH. My father used to take packages to Ostend and Calais for these two gentlemen, and perhaps I went to Paris once and saw the French queen.

The squire of our town was SQUIRE WESTON of the Priory, who, with his brother, kept one of the genteelest houses in the country. He was churchwarden of our church, and much respected. Yes, but if you read the *Annual Register* of 1781, you will find, that on the 13th July, the sheriffs attended at the TOWER OF LONDON to receive custody of a De la Motte, a prisoner charged with high treason. The fact is, this Alsatian nobleman being in difficulties in his own country (where he had commanded the Regiment Soubise), came to London, and under pretence of sending prints to France and Ostend, supplied the French Ministers with accounts of the movements of the English fleets and troops. His gobetween was Lutterloh, a Brunswicker, who had been a crimping agent, then

¹⁹ Thackeray is writing in the character of Denis Duval, the hero of his last (unfinished) novel. It appears from a letter of May, 1863, to Mrs. William Ritchie — the original of which I have not traced — that *Denis Duval* was begun during that month: "If I haven't written to you sooner, be pleased to know that for the last ten days I have been almost *non compos mentis*. When I am in labour with a book I don't quite know what happens. I sit for hours before my paper, not doing my book, but incapable of doing anything else, and thinking upon that subject always, waking with it, walking about with it, and going to bed with it. Oh, the struggles and bothers — oh, the throbs and pains about this trumpery!" (*Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XXI, xiv)

a servant, who was a spy of France and Mr. Franklin, and who turned king's evidence on La Motte, and hanged him.

This Lutterloh, who had been a crimping agent for German troops during the American war, then a servant in London during the Gordon riots, then an agent for a spy, then a spy over a spy, I suspect to have been a consummate scoundrel, and doubly odious from speaking English with a German accent.

What if he wanted to marry THAT CHARMING GIRL, who lived with Mr. Weston, at Winchelsea? Ha! I see a mystery here.

What if this scoundrel, going to receive his pay from the English admiral, with whom he was in communication at Portsmouth, happened to go on board the *Royal George* the day she went down?

As for John and Joseph Weston, of the Priory, I am sorry to say they were rascals too. They were tried for robbing the Bristol mail in 1780; and being acquitted for want of evidence, were tried immediately after on another indictment for forgery — Joseph was acquitted, but George capitally convicted. But this did not help poor Joseph. Before their trials, they and some others broke out of Newgate, and Joseph fired at, and wounded a porter, who tried to stop him, on Snow Hill. For this he was tried and found guilty on the Black Act, and hung along with his brother.

Now, if I was an innocent participator in De la Motte's treasons, and the Westons' forgeries and robberies, what pretty scrapes I must have been in?

I married the young woman, whom the brutal Lutterloh would have had for himself, and lived happy ever after.

1575.

TO ALBANY FONBLANQUE
SEPTEMBER? 1863

Published in part by Greenwood, *Cornhill Magazine*, IX, 657-658. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

Palace Green, Kensington
W.

My dear Fonblanque. I am a little boy born in the year 1763 at Winchelsea where my parents lived, having been expelled from

France after the Revocation Edict of Nantes, which I suspect brought the Fonblanques to England too.

My Grandfather was Precentor and Elder of the French Church at Winchelsea, a perruquier by trade, but a good deal engaged in smuggling. I went upon various smuggling expeditions; but as I don't know the difference between a marling spike and a binnacle, I must get information from somebody as does. And who knows better than you?

Three or four sentences will be enough to tell me and write them like a bold sea man as you are for

Yours ever

W. M. Thackeray.

My Grandfather's name was Duval, he was a barber and perruquier by trade, an Elder of the French Protestant Church at Winchelsea. I was sent to board with his correspondent a Methodist grocer at Rye.

These two kept a fishing boat but the fish that they caught were many and many a barrel of Nantz brandy which we landed — never mind where — at a place to us well known. In the innocence of my heart, I a child got leave to go out fishing. We used to go out at night and meet ships from the French coast.

I learned to scuttle a marling spike

reef a lee-scupper

keelhawl a bowsprit

as well as the best of 'em. How well I remember the jabbering of the Frenchmen the first night! as they hawled the kegs over to us. One night we were fired into by His Majesty's revenue cutter Lynx, I asked what those balls were fizzing into the water?

I wouldn't go on with this smuggling being converted by Mr. Wesley who came to preach to us at Rye — but that is neither here nor there.

What I want is a few sentences about sailing, smuggling and so forth — how we went out at night, what we did, how we came back.

1576.

TO MRS. BENZON ²⁰
16 NOVEMBER 1863 ²¹

Address: M^{rs} Benzon | 10 Palace Gardens | Kensington. Postmark: LONDON NO 17 63. Hitherto unpublished.

Monday

Dear M^{rs} Benzon

I am glad to find Friday is quite free, and I shall be delighted to pay a second visit to your beautiful house.

Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

I came to town very envious and coveting a number of my neighbours goods but the pang is quite over now.

1577.

TO GEORGE SMITH
17 DECEMBER 1863

My text is taken from *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XXI, xxiv-xxv.

Palace Green.

Dear Smith,— I was just going to be taken prisoner by Paul Jones when I had to come to bed. If I could get a month's ease I could finish the eight numbers handsomely with the marriage of Denis and Agnes, after the capture of Toulon by the English. 'The Course of True Love' ²² I thought of as a pretty name. . . .

Yesterday BURGLARS entered our house, and robbed my poor mother and girls of watches, trinkets, diamonds—all my little presents, locketts, bracelets, to poor Annie since she was fifteen.

²⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Leopold Benzon were Thackeray's nearby neighbours. It was with them that he and his daughters were engaged to dine on December 24, the evening of his death. (Lady Priestley, *Story of a Lifetime*, p. 72)

²¹ The day before Tuesday, November 17.

²² *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, I. i, 134.

1578.

TO MRS. JOHN LESLIE

20th DECEMBER 1863²³

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript given Mrs. Fuller by Mr. Shane Leslie, who owns the original.

Dear Mrs. Leslie

Since I wrote and said yes, I have been in bed 3 days and Fate and the doctor says No.

Indeed I am unfit to come (I have only this minute crawled down to my sofa) and nobody can be more sorry than

Yours Very faithfully,

W. M. Thackeray.²⁴

²³ Sir Algernon West (*Recollections*, I, 299) writes that Thackeray "was a great friend of [Mrs. John Leslie], and spent many hours in her company. His death was very sudden, as he was engaged to dine with her on the Sunday before his death; his letter saying Fate and the Doctor prevented him from keeping his engagement was the last he ever wrote."

²⁴ Thackeray's last days are described by Charles Allston Collins in a letter of February 17, 1864, to his brother Wilkie, which I transcribe from the original in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library: "Thackeray . . . was in this house on the Monday before the Thursday on which he died and was in famous spirits and full of fun. On the Tuesday he dined at the Garrick and those who saw him then saw almost the last of him. He came home that night and went to bed as usual. On the next day — Wednesday — he was so poorly as to keep his bed all day. His eldest daughter went into his room about the middle of the day and saw him. His servant looked after him the last thing at night. At mid-night his mother who slept in the next room heard him retching violently, and when we were at breakfast the next morning a servant came to us from the house to say 'that Mr Thackeray was dead'. I never shall forget the day which we passed at the house — we went there of course — or the horror of seeing him lying there so dreadfully changed. It was apoplexy after all, and I don't think that what he had suffered from so long had much, if anything, to do with it."



A CAST OF THACKERAY'S HAND, MADE AFTER DEATH

1863

TO WILLIAM BRADFORD REED

297

1579.

TO WILLIAM BRADFORD REED

1863

My text is taken from a facsimile in Reed's *Haud Immemor*, p. 28.

At sight pay any kindness you can to the bearer, Major F. Goldsmid,²⁵ and debit the same to

Your old friend,

W M Thackeray

Hon^{ble} W. B. Reed Philadelphia

Permission to use the Reading Room will be withdrawn from any person who shall write or make marks on any part of a printed book or manuscript belonging to the Museum.

Press Mark.	Heading and Title of the Work wanted.	Size.	Place.	Date.
	At sight Pay any kindness you can to the Bearer Major F. Goldsmid and debit the same to your old friend			

(Date)

W M Thackeray

(Signature).

(Number of the Reader's Seat).

Please to restore each volume of the Catalogue to its place, as soon as done with.

Hon^{ble} W. B. Reed Philadelphia

²⁵ Shortly before leaving on a trip to the United States in the summer of 1863, Major Goldsmith (*Athenaeum*, 1891, p. 475) had encountered Thackeray in the British Museum. Learning of his plans, Thackeray wrote this note on one of the library's printed call slips.

1580.

TO HENRY THOMPSON

1863

My text is taken from a facsimile in *Centenary Biographical Introductions*, XVIII, opposite p. xxxvi.

Palace Green. K^a

Tuesday

My dear Thompson Is it true about the 100000£ & the Grand Cross? ²⁶ Hip Hip Hooray.

I don't want to borrow money, & am almost as pleased as if I had received it myself.



1581. FROM ANNE THACKERAY TO MRS. BAXTER

30 APRIL—1 MAY 1864

Hitherto unpublished.

Putney Heath. Sunday May 1 —

Dear M^{rs} Baxter. I must write you one line tonight before I go to bed. I have not written before because I can only write about Papa & sometimes I *cant* — When I am worried & troubled about other things then it seems a sort of desecration. I thought of you often & often when I was in his study burning & putting away papers in a sort of dream — There were one or two letters to you begun there was a packet of Sally's letters — I burnt them too and kissed them before I put them into the fire — The scraps to you I will send one day but they are with much more of his writing in big boxes locked & I cannot get at them. There is a little picture of M^{rs} Hampton we put into a pretty frame for him. He was touched when he found it & said I shall send this to her Mother — & I think you will like to have it. Forgive me for speaking of your daughter as I speak. To me the dead are dearer than the living and more

²⁶ Thackeray playfully exaggerates the rewards given Thompson for his successful operation on Leopold I, King of the Belgians, in Brussels during 1863.

alive at times. I think Papa knows perhaps I am writing to you now. Our home where you were once to have come is sold — We have only kept enough furniture for a small house where we are going to live with my Grandmother we believe — Friends are kindness itself there is money enough because Papa was always working for us, and our pain is far far less than it has been — It seems to us that sorrow at first is not sorrow but a terrible physical suffering. It seems to us that we could bear anything with only Papa to talk to about it, but to go stumbling & falling without him is weary work. My little Minny is asleep now too sad to keep awake tonight — But she is much better thank God & the aching leaves off for a while now & then — Only she looks thin and so wan at times that I can't bear it, but thank God she is much better. Granny has gone to Paris for a little change — perhaps we should have gone with her — but we could not bear it, & there was so very much to see to that it was decided we sh^d stay. We are in a little cottage on Putney Heath all the gorse is coming out & the green trees; & the birds are singing, & it is much better than London lodgings. Papa had not been very ill this last year — We had the happiest little Journey together — we did not see one other soul. We were with him all day long, & we thought we had never been so happy in our lives — *Next morning* Minny & the little dog are standing at the garden gate. Here come some children with flowers who tell us it is Mayday —

What we like to think about is a little expedition with Papa a week before Christmas — We went to the Temple Church together & then walked in the garden with all the sun setting — And he was so well & in such good spirits — Just the last week he was very sad & he said to me that if it was not for us he did not want to live much longer. But he was not near so ill as we had often often seen him & Monday he was well again we thought, and Tuesday it seems so very hard he went out & we missed him twice in the day — once he came back on purpose to see us — & we thinking he had gone out for the day as usual, had gone out too, so we only saw him for a minute, and at night I remember thinking how I c^d not bear two days to pass without seeing him more often. It is almost more

dreadful to think of these last days than of those w^h came after. A little time ago we dined out somewhere & met a violent little American woman who spoke unkindly of you all — she did not know you, it was only some political madness. Papa turned upon his heel, — he said he was in such a rage he could scarce contain himself — he strode across to the other end of the room and desired us never to speak to that little Devil again. He never c^d hear her name with patience any more — Yours he never mentioned without many a word of affection and regard — The last time I remember his speaking of you was in the long green study, perhaps a month before & he said — “Poor dears. I am afraid they are very sad & lonely. It is quite different from old days I am afraid people suspect them of Southern leanings — My poor dear M^{rs} Baxter. Do you remember his kind voice when he loved people?”

We are going to live in some new houses near Onslow Square. 8. *Onslow Gardens Brompton*. if ever you write to us, please write there My sister & I have bought the house & my grandmother is to rent it of us & we are to live with her. We try not to look forward much & to get thro each day as it comes. Granny is very kind, but very ill & feeble & every thing seems uncertain and dim. But we have had so much sunshine in our lives such a measure of love that we must not complain now if the light is hidden for a while. I know some day we shall all find our way to the Dearest & Brightest who love us still pray God

Good bye dear M^{rs} Baxter. Give our love to Lucy — We wish she had not been ill. Are you pretty well once more — You have not thought me familiar, I write as we think of you always.

Your sincere

A I Thackeray

1582. FROM ANNE THACKERAY TO MRS. BAXTER
24 OCTOBER 1864

Hitherto unpublished.

8 Onslow Gardens — Brompton
October 24. 1864

My dear M^{rs} Baxter Your kind letter came to us when we were still abroad — Thank you for it & for telling us about Papa — When I write to you I almost feel as if all the years had gone back & he was with you — only a few days journey off — and when I read your letters it seems as if you were writing to give us news of him & to tell us not to be afraid & though we fail & stumble so & go so wrong without him yet he loves us all the same & knows what weary work it is. I think I may go on complaining to you because you will know that it is not all ingratitude & discontent. Everyday we say Thank God for all his great mercy — But to have had Papa to go to always, only makes it more lonely now. And yet we did not think that such quietness as this would ever have come to us again.

I have been thinking about the letters of w^h you write — I can only tell you that we ourselves must not publish one word that he has ever written home. He told us that he did not wish it & said to me one day when we had been speaking of a memoir of a friend of ours *Mind this* there is to be nothing of the sort published about me when my time comes.¹ And so we have been firm though many people have spoken to us on the subject. Dear M^{rs} Baxter if it is not too late I cannot help hoping that you too will keep what he has written. I forget if I told you. We had a wretched anxious time tracing some old letters of his w^h had been — so they said — sold by mistake in an old table — The man into whose hands they got began by asking £100 & then £200 for them Our kind friend M^r Smith frightened him into giving them back to us at last — but it was most miserable work at the time — We heard of them in one place & in another — some of them had been lent to a

¹ See above, I, lxxvii.

poor little cripple artist to whom Papa had been kind, & he it was who gave us warning of what was going on.²

But this is all over now & we are in this little house wh^h does not look very unfamiliar. Grannie was to have come immediately but she has put it off for a fortnight & I think it will perhaps seem less dreary when she is here. Everybody is still so very kind, but London is empty now & so we seem to see scarcely anyone & each

² "Shortly after Mr. Thackeray's death his house in Palace-gardens and its furniture were sold, the latter by auction. Among the articles was an old-fashioned bureau, or writing table, that used to stand in its owner's bedroom, and being somewhat shabby-looking, was knocked down without competition to a neighbouring broker for a few shillings. As soon as the broker had got his purchase home, he began furbishing it up and overhauling it, when, to his surprise, either in some secret drawer or an ordinary drawer, which not even the auctioneer's man who lotted the goods had troubled himself to open, he discovered heaps of letters, including those written by Thackeray to his mother in his schoolboy days, copies of a few important letters he had written to other people, and numerous letters that had been addressed to him by individuals of some note, such as well-known public men and the more distinguished among his brethren of the pen and pencil.

"The broker, elated with his 'find', and desirous of turning it to profitable account, in the full belief that having purchased the writing table at public auction he had acquired a property in the contents of the drawers, took the parcel of letters to Julian Portch, the artist, who lived close by, and with whom he had previously had some dealings. After consulting with Portch he came to the conclusion that the letters were worth a considerable sum — either one or two hundred pounds, I forget which — and asked Portch if he would ascertain for him whether Thackeray's family would like to purchase them for that amount. Portch agreed to do so, and the letters being left with him, he submitted them to Mr. Frederick Greenwood, who was then editing 'the Cornhill' and the 'Pall Mall Gazette', and with whom Portch was intimate through the former connection of the two with the 'Illustrated Times'.

"Greenwood at once recognised the importance of the discovery and submitted the broker's offer. Unluckily for the man the family solicitors were consulted, and at once pooh-poohed the claim. They insisted on the letters being retained, and the broker being left to prove his title to them in a court of law. Irritated beyond measure at the turn affairs had taken, the latter threatened proceedings against everybody concerned for the illegal detention of his property. Eventually, however, he calmed down and accepted some moderate compensation in lieu of enforcing his imaginary rights, and the Thackeray correspondence was secured to the family." (Vizetelly, *Glances back through Seventy Years*, II, 110-111)

day passes in a strange dull way only — I dont think we should have liked it to be less sad

I am glad you are in the country & pray God the peace & the greenness & the children above all will restore you & comfort you a little. We had the dear little children³ framed long ago, & they hung in the pretty morning room & everybody said ‘O what a dear little pair’ when they looked at them.

I know Papa was tired & that he did not want to live except for us & yet my heart sickens & aches & I feel that he might have been with us now — But no words mean anything & even last night I woke up with a start saying to myself It has only been a dream & it is not true. It makes one so humble & so ashamed to hear of his tender goodness & to remember his unceasing love & partiality — & it is like a sort of torture now to remember how little we understood it. Though indeed we did care very very much, I was never happy or easy until I had gone to him about everything. Just a week before Christmas a thief got into our house & stole all my pretty trinkets that he had given me at one time or another. When Papa came home & said “Poor Nan” I remember thinking it was worth while losing them for him to look so kind. I will send you the best picture of him I can find — There have been so many but we seem to like the old ones that he has seen & that we are used to best. There is a little picture he told me he should send to you one day — It is only one that you sent us, of M^{rs} Hampden — years ago — It became discoloured & faded & then we cut away the faded part & had it framed in a little chapel w^h seemed to fit it — It was in Papas study, when I went to put away his papers & I packed all the familiar little belongings away — Sometimes Minny looks very like Papa & sometimes she says things so like him that it is a wonder. She can remember things he said & liked & his words, & she has all his tenderness — I mean it is like his — Shall we ever come and see you? I know we should like it some day, — if you were to come — Even in this little house we could make room. Dear M^{rs} Baxter some day perhaps we may meet. — Did Papa ever talk to you about

³ See above, No. 1501.

M^{rs} Brookfield? She has taken us under her kind wing she is coming to live close by only to be near us. All this terrible year she has been so good to us all three that I do not know how we could have dragged through without her.

Eyre Crowe is an artist still but he has also got a good place at the Sth Kensington Museum where he is an inspector — do you know that his sister who lived with us married our cousin Edward Thackeray & went to India with him. We hardly ever see M^r Crowe — I cannot quite tell you why — He became shy & gradually went away. Sometimes we see M^r Lawrence he used to come & draw Papa in the dining room at Kensington. We like the drawing very much, but the photograph of the drawing is not like somehow. We too still prefer the first that we have always looked at & w^h seems to be Papa from long use as much as anything. There is a little drawing by Maclise, done years ago when Papa was quite a young man — I will send you [a] photograph of that, tho perhaps it is only long use, as with the other w^h makes us like it so much.

Minny is going out for a drive with M^{rs} Carlyle this afternoon, — we met old Thomas the other day on his horse & he suddenly began to cry. I shall always love him in future, for I used to fancy he did not care about Papa.⁴ Now that the house is in order & we have done with carpenters &c we must look about I suppose & find something to do & to be interested in — It is very difficult — I try & write a little but I have nothing to say — It is like speaking when one is not thinking of what one says — I suppose we must take to some schools or sick people & do the best we can. Economising is an employment after all & fortunately we have chosen rather too dear a house. But we will always pay our bills every week so that

⁴ "Poor Thackeray!" Carlyle wrote to Milnes on December 29, 1863. "I saw him not ten days ago. I was riding in the dusk, heavy of heart, along by the Serpentine and Hyde Park, when some human brother from a chariot, with a young lady in it, threw me a shower of salutations. I looked up — it was Thackeray with his daughter: the last time I was to see him in this world. He had many fine qualities, no guile or malice against any mortal; a big mass of a soul, but not strong in proportion; a beautiful vein of genius lay struggling about in him. Nobody in our day wrote, I should say, with such perfection of style. I predict of his books very much as you do. Poor Thackeray! — adieu! adieu!" (Reid, *Life of Lord Houghton*, II, 113)

do not be afraid that we shall get into debt — And besides I am in hopes that Grannie will get a good pension. We have had much more for Papa's copyrights than he expected. The poor old Kensington red house has sold for £ 10.000. Unfortunately though it is my greatest comfort & shows that he did not expect more what was to come, than we did — papa had been altering his will & had not signed it; and so a third has to be funded & put away for my poor Mama

And now Goodbye dear M^{rs} Baxter we send all our best greetings to you all — If you will send us the pictures I think we should value them very very much but we do not want to take them from you. Goodbye once more with Minnys love & that of

Your affectionate

A I Thackeray

LETTERS OF UNCERTAIN DATE

1583.

TO LADY AIRLIE

[1855-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Square
March 1.

Dear Lady Airlie

You are very kind to come & see my daughters, and to ask me again to dinner. I wish I *could* come: but I dine with the Lord Mayor of England on Saturday.

Always yours

W M Thackeray

1584.

TO MRS. ARABIN

[1854-1862]

My text is taken from Madigan's *Word Shadows of the Great*, pp. 208 and 210.

36 Onslow Sq.,
Sunday.

Dear Mrs. Arabin:

I have chosen this black-edged paper to denote my grief, that I am unable and can't go out to dinner. Why, I think I have had to refuse ten friends this week, and believe me, the person who is most sorry of all, is

Yours faithfully,
W. M. Thackeray

1585.

TO MRS. BACON

[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

Friday. 36 Onslow Sq^r

Dear M^{rs} Bacon

My 'card trick' is one of the cleverest I have ever performed but where can the card be that was written to M^r & M^{rs} Bacon & Miss Bacon?

It was to beg and pray that you would dine with me at Greenwich on Sunday at the Trafalgar at 6.30. I do so hope that we are still not too late.

very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.



LUCY BAXTER
From a photograph

Smoking Room.

Dear Barham. Reynolds has just
raised a wonderful objection to an important
article, ~~and~~ I (of a few lines) w.^c I have
submitted to him. Would you be good enough
and hear the passage read?

It must be in secret

W.M.S.



AN UNDATED LETTER FROM THACKERAY TO THE
REV. RICHARD HARRIS BARHAM

1586. TO THE REV. RICHARD HARRIS BARHAM
[1837-1845]

Hitherto unpublished.

Smoking-Room.

Dear Barham. Reynolds has just raised a wonderful objection to an important article, (of a few lines) w^h I have submitted to him. Would you be goodnatured and hear the passage read?

W M T.

It must be in *secret*

1587. TO MRS. BAYNE
[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Square. Tuesday.

My dear M^{rs} Bayne. I wish I could meet my old college friends — but I have asked two people to dine here on Friday — and am writing in the midst of a fine attack of spasms w^h began last night, w^h will most likely prevent that dinner too. I cant say any more but that I am

Yours very truly
W M Thackeray

1588.

TO MR. BLUNT

[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.



Kensington. Monday.

My dear Blunt

I am transporting my young ones into the Country or I should have had the greatest pleasure in joining your party on Wednesday.

Always yours

W M Thackeray

1589.

TO MRS. R. BOYLE ¹

[1846-1853]

Address: Hon^{ble} M^{rs} R. Boyle. Hitherto unpublished.

13 Young St Kensington. Saturday

My dear Madam

I send you a ragged portfolio full of scraps w^h may amuse you some afternoon when your own hand is tired of doing much better

¹ Wife of Robert Edward Boyle (1809-1854), fourth son of the eighth Earl of Cork and Orrery.

things. Liston used to say he was a great tragic actor, and so it's my opinion that I am a painter *manqué*. You have youth time and genius: I hope you will work, and not hide those precious candles of your's — The Line The Line is the thing. When I think of that text, I'm ashamed of this rubbish w^h I ask you to look at.

Thank you for your charming drawings, I shall frame them and look at them often; and am dear Madam

Most faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

1 or 2 of the drawings are in the anastatic ink with that pen.

1590. TO BRADBURY AND EVANS
[1847-1858]

Address: Mess^{rs} Bradbury & Evans. Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Sirs

The first plate is done. I etched the second to day, It waits to be bitten in. the title is ready the book is ready. Dammy who s afraid?

Yours
W M T.

1591. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Published in *Collection of Letters*, p. 138.

My dear Madam. I am always thinking of M^{rs} C<...>² W<...> H<...> with a feeling of regard so intense and incomprehensible that feeble words cannot give it utterance, and I know that only a strong struggle with my interior and a Principle w^h is based on the eternal data of perennial reminiscence can keep this fluttering heart tolerably easy and secure. But what is memory? Memory without Hope is but a negative idiosyncrasy and hope without memory a

² Apart from their initial letters, Mrs. Brookfield has irrecoverably overscored this and the following names.

plant that has no root. Life has many such: but still I feel that they are too few. Death may remove or in some way modify their poignancy: the Future alone can reconcile them with the irrevocable fiat of yesterday: and Tomorrow I have little doubt will laugh them into melancholy scorn. Deem not that I speak lightly, or that beneath the mask of satire any doubt any darkness any pleasure even at foreboding can mingle with the depth of my truthfulness. Passion is but a hypocrite and a monitor (however barefaced) — Action febrile continuous action should be the pole star of our desolate being. If this is not reality I know not what is — M^{rs} H<...> C<...> W<...> may not understand me: but you will ³

1592.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD

[1848-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Monday ev^g

15.

My dear lady — You who know everything beforehand what will you say to this sad news <...>⁴ and oppressed) and the old wretch of a female said she would come too! — and come she did and talked to me some confounded vulgar reminiscences of her stupid existence — whilst the poor old red nose walked by us meekly.

They will all do in a book so will every[one] do in a book so would you so would even

Your ever tryew friend

W M T.

³ The original here breaks off in the middle of a line.

⁴ Two-thirds of the first page of this letter are here cut away.

1593. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Brookfield will see by the enclosed ⁵ that *some* vipers is not very dangerous reptiles.

1594. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Brookfield — Yes if you please this very day.

always yours —ly

W M T.

1595. TO THE REV. WILLIAM AND MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851] ⁶

Published in *Collection of Letters*, p. 135.

My dear Sir or Madam

Pax vobiscum ora pro nobis. If you go to the lecture today will you have the Fly? it will be only ever so little out of the Fly's way to come for you; and will you fetch me from this place please and will you send an answer by Coachman today whether you'll come or no?

I had a gentle ride in the Park and was all but coming to 15, but thought I wouldn't get off my oss at anyplace save that where

⁵ No doubt a pen-wiper.

⁶ This note cannot concern Thackeray's lectures of May-July, 1851, for the Brookfields had moved from 15 Portman Street to 64 Cadogan Place in the early weeks of that year.

I am going to work namely this here 'till Lecture time. Doyle will be in waiting at 4 1/2 o'clock to let the stray sheep into the fold.

I am yours
Makepeace. Bishop of Mealy potatoes.

1596. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD

[1842-1851]

Published in *Collection of Letters*, p. 25.

Had I but ten minutes sooner
Got your hospitable line
'Twould have been delight and honor
With a gent like you to dine —
But my word is passed to others
Fitz he is engagéd too —
Agony my bosom smothers
As I write Adieu Adieu.

1597. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD

[1846-1851]

Published in *Collection of Letters*, p. 51.

My dear Vieux Will ye dine with me on Friday at the G. my work will be just over on that day, and bedad we'll make a night of it and go to the play. On Thursday I shall dine here: and Sunday most probbly — or we go to Richmond on Sunday. Make your game and send me word.

Ever yours
W M T.

Having occasion to write to a man in
Bloomsbury Place & to Lady Davy I
mixed up the addresses, & am too
mean to throw away the envelope so
give you the benefit of the same.

'The Reform Club, according to Mrs. Brookfield (*Collection of Letters*, p. 135).

1598. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD
[1846-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Monsieur et Mesdemoiselles Thackeray ont l'honneur de prier M. L'Abbé Brookfield de venir manger le gigot chez eux Dimanche prochaine à six heures précises. Monsieur Forster y sera.

J'ai la soussignée & l'honneur d'offrir mes complimens respectueux a Madame Brookfield.

Harite Marion Thackeray⁸

1599. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD
[1846-1851]

Hitherto unpublished. *Endorsed*: From W. M. T. To W. H. B.

13 Young St Kensington Friday
Tomorrow at one
Let us meet at *The Garrick*

The Rev^d

W. H. Brookfield

1600. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD
[1852-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Vieux The only free day I have this week is Friday and I should like very much if you would come and dine here. It would give me a great pleasure to shake hands with you & to smoke a pipe once more. Gby.

W M T.

⁸ The signature is in Minnie's hand.

1601. TO MRS. CARMICHAEL-SMYTH
[1843-1846]

Hitherto unpublished.

And so God Almighty bless my dear little ones and their mother, and their Granny and all who love them, and bring us all together again; and as for next week why I really *will* write.

My dearest Mothers afft
W M T

1602. TO EDWARD CHAPMAN
[1840-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Chapman

A very deserving young person has sent me the accompanying MS. for w^h she wants a publisher & a profit of course. She has 50 subscribers she says — Will you make an estimate of the lowest price at w^h such a book could be published, and let me write to the author, on the subject.

Yours ever
W M T.

I want to see if there is any reasonable way of holding the author harmless, & making the publisher answer. The songs are very pretty some of them.

1603.

TO EDWARD CHAPMAN?

[1846-1853]

My text is taken from a facsimile in an American Art Association catalogue, January 8-9, 1936, p. 226.

Kensington, Friday

My dear Edward I shall dine at home on Sunday will you come and see your

Louisa

6 o'clock

P S You had better get your spectacles to read this



Kensington, Friday,

My dear Edward I shall dine at home
on Sunday, will you come and see your
Louisa

6 o'clock

P S you had better get your spectacles to read this

1604.

TO CHAPMAN AND HALL

[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mr. Sessler, who owns the original.

13 Young St Tuesday Morning

Dear Sirs

Will you please to let the bearer bring away my plate chest — I thank you for having faithfully kept it through so many years.⁹

Yours

W. M. Thackeray

1605.

TO EDWARD CHAPMAN

[1846-1863]

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mr. Sessler, who owns the original.

Dear Chapman.

My oldest daughter rushing down to embrace yours truly, fell down stairs and shook and hurt herself a little, so that she is gone to lie down: and I & the other must stay at home tonight — Otherwise we should have all been on the road to Bolton by this time where I hope you will have a pleasant evening without

Yours very sincerely

W. M. T.

1606.

TO CHAPMAN AND HALL

[1846-1849]

Address: Mess^{rs} Chapman & Hall | 186 Strand. Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Sirs

At last Vizetelly has done his duty & sent me a really good Cut. Pray urge him to do his very best with these w^h come; and

⁹ See above, No. 182.

(some of the others being altered) we will have a great & worthy & triumphant book for Xmas.

1607.

TO MR. CHESTER

[1860-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

Monday.

My dear C.

The text is good but much also depends on the Sermon. A lively series of illustrations of the clumsy working of Gov^t Offices would be good reading — but a disquisition wouldnt. So about M^r Robinson — I cant judge at all till I see the article, and 2

on ^{an O.C.} ~~and 2~~ ^{as I think} ~~as I think~~ would be better than 3.

Yours

W M T.

1608.

TO MRS. ARCHER CLIVE ¹⁰

[1860-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear M^{rs} Clive.

I was so hard at work that I could see nobody, & forgot every thing but my Roundabout Paper wh^{ch} I have just done (3.30) We should be delighted to dine with you: but I want if I can to make a run to Paris or somewhere as soon as my number is ready; and, if you please, will say No.

I refused (with thanks) a poem for my present number because of its defective conclusion, and that poem was written by

Yours always

W M Thackeray.

¹⁰ Mrs. Clive (1801-1873) was the author of *IX Poems by V* (1840), *Paul Ferroll* (1855), and other volumes of verse and fiction.

1609.

TO MRS. COLE
[1854-1863]

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 329.

31, Saturday.

My dear Mrs. Cole, — I am going to confiscate ¹¹ an American rocking-chair which has been an eye and shin-sore in my room for years past since a Yankee Captain gave it to me. The girls say your children like to rock in this chair very much in spite of its ugliness and many defects. Will they have it in the nursery, or shall the Broker ship it off? Please ask Mamma to decide this most important question.

1610.

TO HENRY COLE
[1848-1863]

Address: H. Cole Esq^{re} Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Cole Will you please tell M^r Lascelles that I cant come out this morning having work to do w^h must be delivered by 2 o'clock. but that I engage myself for £2.2.0; and if need be to propose a resolution at the meeting

Yours ever

W M Thackeray

I wont write to M^r Lascelles because he must be in the midst of preparations and a messenger such as you is surer than a note.

1611.

TO HENRY COLE
[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 O. S. S. W.

My dear Cole I ought to have written before but could not write till yesterday from illness.

¹¹ General Wilson reads *confuseoli*.

Put me down for 100£ Debenture please of the Horticultural Society of London.

Yours ever

W M Thackeray

1612.

TO HENRY COLE

[1860-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

We'll talk over that idea of the article.

H. Cole Esq^r

1613.

TO HENRY COLE

14 FEBRUARY [1860-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

14 Feb.

My dear Cole

S & E write that some verbal changes have been made in your article at Cornhill. I am so busy that I haven't time to collate the papers, so I send you the revised proof, but have made so bold as to pass the article, as the Printer waits to go to press

Yours

W M T.

Your title is too big and we have xtended you by the name I leave unerased.

1614.

TO JOHN PAYNE COLLIER

[1837-1840]

Address: J. Payne Collier Esq^r | &c &c &c. Hitherto unpublished.

Tuesday.

My dear Collier I should have been delighted but I am going out of town next week with my family: for a little recreation at Brighton.

Ever yours

W M T.

1615. TO DUDLEY COSTELLO
[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq. S. W.
Friday.

My dear Costello.

Have been laid up in bed otherwise should have written earlier
— Send me word or call if you please and say how you can
be served by

Yours ever
W M T.

1616. TO GEORGE CRUIKSHANK
19 NOVEMBER

Hitherto unpublished.

Nov^r 19.

My dear Cruikshank

Axel's number I dont know but if you will send your drawing
to H. Glynn Esq^r Berkeley Chambers Bruton St saying who is
the author and that you are come from me, you may depend on
having a proof

Yours always
W M Thackeray

1617. TO MRS. CUNNINGHAM
[1849-1863]

Address: M^{rs} Cunningham | 2 Madeley Villas. Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Madam.

Could you kindly lend me the Handbook of London ¹² if you
have a copy of that interesting book? It shall be safely returned
in the course of the day by

Yours very truly
W M Thackeray

¹² By Peter Cunningham, first published in 1849.

1618. TO CHARLES ANDERSON DANA ¹³
2 OCTOBER [1857-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
October 2.

My dear Dana

I have left a letter at home w^h I ought to have forwarded to you, from S. Lucas (of the Times) who will send you some letters. He edited the Press for some time is a liberal Conservative a very worthy man and a good writer. He has the confidence of the Conservative party. He *wont* write scandal though, or much personalities. He might be lighter but he is the best man I know of just now. He says unless you prefer a Saturday letter very strongly, a Tuesday letter w^d be better, as the party meetings are on Sundays generally, and the gossip comes afterwards My regards to Don Bayardo, and all who remember

Yours ever
W M Thackeray.

1619. TO HENRY DAVISON
[1846-1856]

My text is taken from a Sotheby catalogue of November 7, 1927.

My dear Davison,

I am engaged to a lord and a lady, how can you expect me free to go with anything commoner? ¹⁴

Yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

¹³ Dana (1819-1897) was editor of *The New York Tribune*.

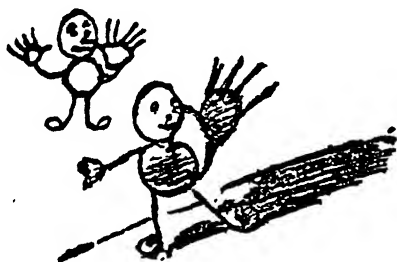
¹⁴ According to the Sotheby catalogue Thackeray wrote this note "In reply to a suggestion that he should go to the Derby in a hansom cab."

1620. TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
DEANERY CLUB
[1837-1863]

My text is taken from a facsimile in *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 66.

M^r Thackeray regrets that a previous engagement will prevent him from having the pleasure of dining with the Deanery Club on Thursday next. In making this announcement M^r Thackeray will feel much obliged if the Secretary will

— Thats all.



1621. TO CHARLES DICKENS
[1836-1858]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Dickens

1000 pardons. Im very sorry Im engaged on Monday 4th

W M T.

1622. TO RICHARD DOYLE
[1848-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear RD.

Lord Ashburton is coming to dine with me at home on Friday at 7, and I wish you would come too. Let us meet as much as we possibly can in this world, mon ami; and as for the next who knows

but that both MacHale ¹⁵ and Sir Robert Inglis may be wrong, and have settled prematurely who is who and who is not — less?

Yours ever
W M T.

1623.

TO D.
[1846-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear D. I did not receive your n: until late this e: too late to put the answer into the p here. But as I am going into T to D I hope in this reply to say I will be at the R at 4 and will gladly introduce you to C & H.

Yours my d d
v. t.
W M T.

1624.

TO MRS. ELLIOT
[1848-1851]

My text is taken from a facsimile in *Collection of Letters*, opposite, p. 94.

M^r Jeames de la Pluche presents respecckfle Comps to M^{rs} Elliot and I am very sorry that he cannot igsept *your genteal and palight invitation* w^h he is engaged as you will be *gladd* to hear to meat Miss Virginia Pattle: and afterwoods to go to a *friendly Swoary* where praps a *reverend gent's* lady by name of Br—kf—ld may *cumsoal* me fir his igstreme disapintment in not meeting neither M^{rs} E nor Miss P

PS. Respecckfl Comps to the young lady who sang like a *Siring*
PS. Genteel regards to Miss K. E. P.

¹⁵ John Machale (1791-1881), Catholic Archbishop of Tuam. Sir Robert Inglis was an ardent Episcopalian.

1625.

TO DR. ELLIOTSON
[1846-1853]

My text is taken from *Notes and Queries*, Sixth Series, IV (1881), 507.

Kensington, Tuesday Ev^s

My dear Doctor, — How can you ask such a buck as I am to eat a mere 1/2 buck? — and the worst of it is that I'm going to refuse even that — I want to go out of town for my health's sake, & try D^r Air and D^r Thalatta. You are a good doctor but I want I say to try *the latter* (if I had but written D^r Ether instead of D^r Air, you will perceive I could have made another pun on the subject and said how happy I could be with,¹⁶ &c.).

But so, all things duly weighed, I am obliged regretfully to say no: though I want to dine with you very much, and though I dare say after all I sha'n't get out of town.

Ever your's reminiscently
W. M. Thackeray.

1626.

TO THE REV. WHITWELL ELWIN
5 APRIL [1855-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

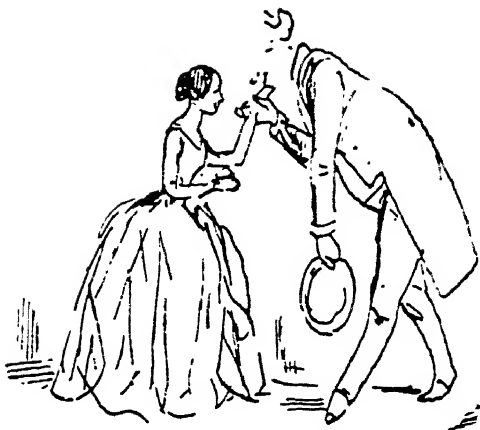
Grosvenor Sq^s
April 5.

As you have given currency & importance to a very complacent
misrepresentation of the offer we have had the honour to make to
the Literary Fund on behalf of a third person you will perhaps
favour us with an opportunity of correcting IT.

O Elwin! what a sentence!

My name is needless but it is that of
a true Briton and a lover of his Country.

¹⁶ See above, No. 442.



Mr. James de la Roche presents respectful Greetings to Mr. Elliot and I am very sorry that he cannot accept your gentle and delightful invitation as he is engaged as you will be glad to hear to meet Miss Virginia Tottle. and afterwards to go to a friendly Sunday where perhaps a reverend gentle lady by name of Br-kj-ld may console our father's extreme disappointment in not meeting neither Mr. E nor Miss P

P.S. Respectful Greetings to the young lady who sang like a string

P.S. Gentle regards to Mrs K. E. P.



1627. TO FREDERICK MULLETT EVANS
[1846-1851]

My text is taken from a Sotheby catalogue, March 26-27, 1934, p. 31.

My dear Evans.

Can you settle with me — a 1/4 quarter of Punch and the proceeds of that last masterpiece. We expect the young ladies on Wednesday at 3, and then Papa at 6/30.

W. M. T.

1628. TO FREDERICK MULLETT EVANS
[1847-1851]

My text is taken from a Sotheby catalogue, February 13, 1928.

Dear Evans

Will you pay in for me my month and 70£ as the Punch quarter.

Yours like Saturday

W. M. T.

R. S. V. P.

1629. TO FREDERICK MULLETT EVANS
MAY [1847-1851]

Address: F. M. Evans Esq^{re} Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Evans.

All that money the other day was paid away, and I am still crying for more. Can you let me have 60 for the no. and 40 on the Punch acc^t that will ease the payment at the end of June w^h w^d otherwise come awfully heavy upon you.

Yours ever

W M Thackeray.

1630. TO MRS. AND MISS FANSHAWE
[1849-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear f and Miss F.

You must come to day please: for I want ladies of all things
having 2 or 3 men and only our dear M^{rs} B—

Send word that you'll come and ease the mind of

Your distracted
W M T.

1631. TO MRS. FANSHAWE
[1849-1851]

Address: M^{rs} Fanshawe | 10 Portman Street. Hitherto unpublished.

My dear f

May I come to night to tea at 8 o'clock? On my way to another
sworry.

Your respectful
W M T.

I wish you a very happy New Year indeed.

1632. TO MRS. FANSHAWE
[1852-1857]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear kind little f.

Fanshawe writes that you are coming through town and might
like to stay a day or two. Do come for days or for weeks you
know you & Totty will always be welcome by

Yours
W M T & Co

I go away to Glasgow on the 12th but the house & the cellar
is still here.

1633.


TO MR. FAULKNER

[1854-1862]

My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 163.

36 Onslow Square, S. W.

My dear Faulkner,

Will you send the wine and the bill to me at  . I am just out of bed after an illness else I would have sooner written to you. The girls send with Papa, their very kind regards to Mrs. Faulkner and I am Yours always

With all my



W. M. Thackeray.

1634.

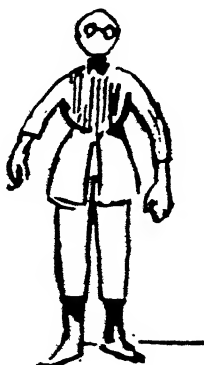
TO MRS. JOHN FITZGERALD

[1848-1851]

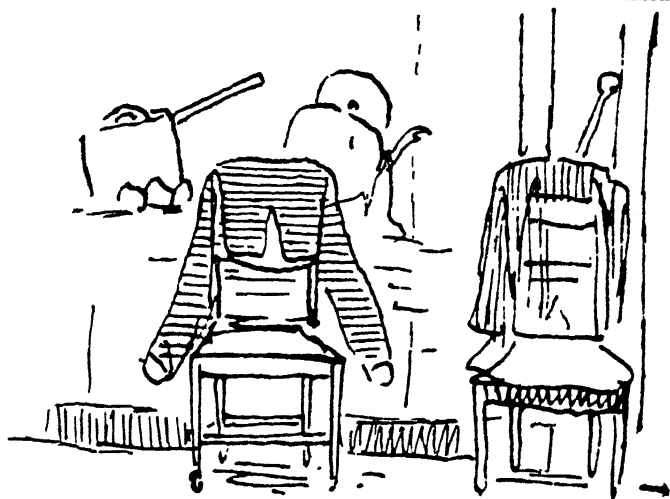
Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Fitzgerald

I was on my way to you when the rain descended in a cataract, and I write at this moment from a friends room and dressed in his clothes w^h are I grieve to say too small for me in fact I am in this situation



and how long the buttons will endure it is impossible for me to say — My own garments



at the kitchen fire — I blush at the mere notion of these details.

My servant was to come to your house at 6 1/2 for the oss: will you be so good as to order him to Jones Mews at Portman St: whence he may fetch it.

Are we to meet tomorrow at Doctor Piper's? We are all in next weeks Punch: and I am always very truly yours

W M Thackeray

1635.

TO JOHN FORSTER

[1846-1853]

My text is taken from an American Art Association catalogue, March 25, 1920.

Kensington, Saturday

My dear F.

If not engaged, you will find roast beef and Higgins here tomorrow at 6 o'clock.

Ever thine

W. M. T.

1636.

TO JOHN FORSTER
[1846-1856]*Address:* J. Forster Esq^{re} | 58 Lincolns Inn Fields. Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Forster

Will Friday do? or Sunday? and can you write as elegant as this? The other day when Minny heard that I had met you at dinner she flushed up and said 'I hope you gave him my love' So I told a falsehood and said I had. I'm engaged unfortunately on Saturday and write so beautifully because I am very busy and ought to lose no time

Yours always
W M Thackeray

1637.

TO JAMES FRASER
1 JULY [1838-1840]

My text is taken from a facsimile in the New York Public Library.

13 G^t Coram St 1 July.

Dear Fraser

Do make up my account now directly — if you owe me so much the better I am hard up and want money, if you don't, so much the better too, for you that is and I shall know where I am. Sem-piternally yours

W. M. Thackeray.

Impromptu

In case you owe send what you owe

In case you don't dont send you know

1638.

TO THOMAS FRASER

[1841-1846]

Hitherto unpublished.

The Earl of Malmesbury ¹⁷ has arrived in Paris from London ¹⁸

The Marquis of Thackeray has also arrived and passed three hours *on Sunday* at the apartment of the Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle: who was absent *at a Steeple Chase*! His Lordship affably partook of some rhubarb and magnesia at the correspondent's expense. Up to the time of our Express leaving Paris, no satisfactory results had ensued from the potion.

1639.

TO MRS. HALL

[1860-1862] ¹⁹

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W

March 10.

Dear M^{rs} Hall.

I am known as a willing horse, and have such a number of live people on my back that I fear I must not let poor M^{rs} Hemans's statue get up and ride. I assure you it is harder to me to say No than yes; but if you were to see *my* little list of applicants alive and hungry, you would I think advise me to say No too.

Yours very faithfully

W M Thackeray.

¹⁷ James Howard Harris (1807-1889), third Earl of Malmesbury (1841), a well-known statesman.

¹⁸ This sentence, obviously the beginning of a despatch to *The Morning Chronicle*, is in Fraser's hand. The rest of the note is written by Thackeray.

¹⁹ This note is written on the stationery of *The Cornhill Magazine*.

1640.

TO MRS. HAWES ²⁰

[1846-1856]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Hawes

I will come on Sunday with great alacrity and on Saturday evening I should like to come very much, but I doubt whether the distant dinner to w^h I'm engaged will break up time enough to admit me to Queen Square.

Pax vobiscum

Ora pro nobis

Yours very faithfully

W M Thackeray

1641.

TO LADY HAWES

[1856-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
Tuesday.

Dear Lady Hawes

I have been unwell and am anxious to go out of town; and only waited that my daughter might keep her engagement for Thursday. As your table is too crowded to receive her, will you kindly let me vacate my place too, and go off with my girls to Brighton.

Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray.

²⁰ The wife of Benjamin Hawes (1797-1862), later (1856) K. C. B., Deputy Secretary of State for War and afterwards Permanent Under-Secretary of State for War from 1851 until his death.

1642.

TO LEIGH HUNT
DECEMBER [1846-1859]

Published in *The Cornhill Magazine*. My text is taken from a transcript supplied by Mrs. Fuller.

My dear Hunt,

Though we never meet we should
If you could and if you would
Will you take your dinner here
On the last day of the year?
And believe me Hunt my dear
Yours for ever and a day
Doubleyouem Thackeray.

1643.

TO MRS. IRVINE
[1848-1863]

My text is taken from a facsimile in *Unpublished Letters by W. M. Thackeray*, ed. Shorter, p. 6.



M^r Thackeray who is in bed will have great pleasure in dining with M^{rs} Irvine this evening.

1644.

TO WILLIAM JERDAN

[1837-1843]

Address: W. Jerdan Esq^{re} | &c &c &c. Published by Charles Plumptre Johnson, *The Early Writings of William Makepeace Thackeray* (London, 1888), p. 34.

13 G^t Coram St^t
Brunswick Sq^e

My dear Jerdan.

Is it fair to ask whether the Literary Gazette is for sale? I should like to treat: and thought it best to apply to the Fountain-head of w^h I am always the obligated

W M Thackeray

1645.

TO JOHN KENYON

[1848-1850]

Hitherto unpublished.

13 Young St^t Kensington

My dear Kenyon

I must go away to Brighton on Sunday with Pendennis: or I should have come to you with pleasure — Farewell! be happy without your melancholy friend

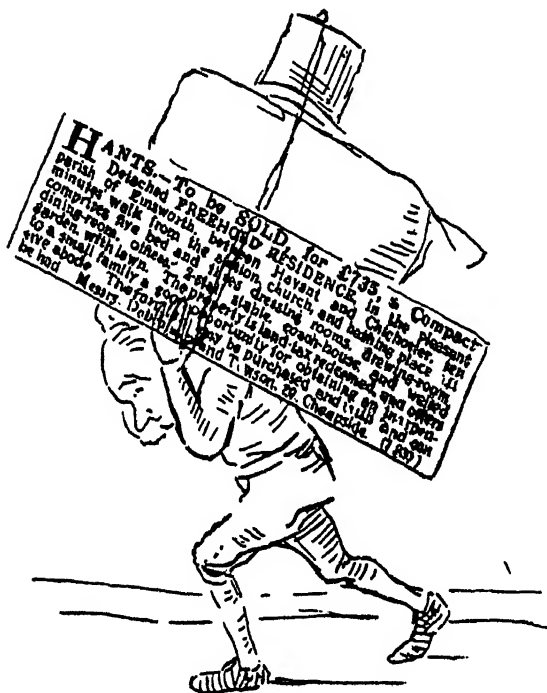
W M T.

1646.

TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON

[1862-1863]

My text is taken from Maggs's catalogue 659 (1938), where the drawing is reproduced in facsimile.



Palace Green, Kensington, W.

My dear Knighton

Can you tell me what sort of a place this here is. Someday when you have O to do would you go and look at it? I should so like to have a house, a garden, and a field or two. If the place is marshy or clay soil it won't do for me, and I am, we are, Yours and Lady Knighton's always, W. M. T. and daughters.

1647.

TO JOHN LEECH
[1843-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.



Dear Leech. I have been here since yesterday, and if you dont come in about 10 minutes I think I shall be gone. This is King of the Garrick Club sitting at my window. He little knew I was sending him to the great cawickachawist of the Age. But the *real* reason I have to write is this. I have just been reading an odd volume of Chambers Journal & find the following pretty lines

The toddler tyke neer has sic a good byke
 As the bonny gairy bee;
 But of a' the bie-bykes that ever I saw
 The red beltie bears the gree.
 Upon my word its so.

1648. TO WILLIAM LEIGHTON LEITCH ²¹
[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear M^r Leitch

Are you in town for yet a little time & could you give a few lessons at your own house & at as early an hour as you like to

Yours very truly
W M Thackeray.

36 Onslow Sq^e Brompton.

1649. TO MRS. MAC CULLAGH
[1862-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

Kensington Thursday

Dear M^{rs} MacCullagh.

No 1 of my daughters is unwell and we are obliged to decline evening-parties in consequence; otherwise mesdemoiselles w^d have had great pleasure in accepting Miss MacCullagh's invitation

Always faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

On the back of my note I see with dismay the picture of a little boy saying his prayers. As the subject is moral and edifying, I don't write a new note, and economize a sheet of paper.

²¹ Leitch (1804-1883) was the best teacher of landscape painting of his time. He was drawing master to the Queen and the royal family from 1842 to 1864.



1650.

TO MRS. MACREADY

[1841-1852]

Hitherto unpublished.

Ah my dear M^{rs} Macready M^r William Thackeray presents his compliments to you and is quite grieved that I am engaged to dinner on Monday. He begs me to state that he is ever

Sincerely yours

W M Thackeray.

TO LORD MAHON?

1651.

TO LORD MAHON?

[1846-1853]

My text is taken from a facsimile in a Goodspeed Bookshop catalogue.

13 Young St Thursday Ev^g

My dear Lord See how differently History is written by different hands! As I read your version of my conduct I feel I'm a criminal and monster of ingratitude, so dexterously do you put me in the wrong. But when I examine my own buzzum I know that it is quite innocent: I kept away from modesty (upon my word) not indifference, and thought you would send for me when you wanted to see me. I didn't know that you had been badly ill, until 2 nights ago, & only heard that you were keeping your room and did not see people. I'd like to set off this instant and go and see you: but, failing that, I will come directly, and thank you for wishing that I should come. On Sunday I am going to Lord Lansdowne, Wednesday & Thursday am disengaged: may I come either of those days? I mean not counting the morning visits w^h I will by the blessing of Heaven pay you. Ever truly yours

W M Thackeray

1652.

TO MRS. MARTIN

[1856-1858]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear M^{rs} Martin. Would you like to come through the rain & hear a lecture about George III at 4 precisely. Never mind answer
36 Onslow Square. Brompton.

1653.

TO MRS. MARTIN

[1860-1862] ²²

Address: Mr^s Martin | 31 Onslow Square. Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Neighbour. I have refused 2 dinners for Thursday already, on the plea of ill health w^h unfortunately is too true: and mustn't come indeed I mustn't. Always yours.

²² This note is written on *Cornhill Magazine* stationery.

1654. TO RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES?

[1846-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Your reflections about my family are unkyind and unjust. My enjoyment is never greater than when, surrounded by the beings dearest to me, I distribute to them slices of that mutton w^h my industry has enabled me to purchase. The palled epicure sneers at those simple festivals. Luxury has enfeebled his sickened appetites: the Natural ceases to stimulate the flaccid debauchee. Childless but not chaste, you cannot comprehend the raptures of those whose infants draw sustenance from their labours, and in their leisure frolic round their knees. Worldling! these are the dainties w^h render my feasts more delicious than Luculline banquets. Idle moth burning your painted wings in Fashions reeking torch: how can you understand the quiet joys of those who warm themselves at the Hearth of Domestic Love?

But, Wretch, are you so ignorant of the very routine of home-pleasures as not to know the hour when a blessed slumber ends them? Are you unaware that at the time when the revels of the voluptuary are but commencing, the innocent eyes of childhood are sealed in sleep? My honest household is quiet, when your fevered menials are plying the smoking salver or the inebriating corkscrew. The heartless jibe, the indelicate retort, the sneering laugh w^h desecrates all things Holy & Beautiful are echoing in your polluted halls, when only the deep breath of slumbering Innocence interrupts the sacred silence of my cottage.

It was *then*, when the good slept — that I proposed to come to *you*: to touch you perhaps with words of warning: to interpose an element of peace in your carouse: — a life-boat venturing in that storm of dissipation — haply to rescue some stray poor soul that was battling on the waves of perdition.

Now it is too late. I asked two gents to partake of my humble meal. *Our* evening will pass away in philosophical converse. May yours be at least not criminal. Adieu. Though the rains are falling on the gardens of our peaceful village the church bells are ringing their sweet invitation. Farewell then.

1655. TO SIR WILLIAM AND LADY MOLESWORTH
[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

Sir W & Lady Molesworth. to remind.

13 Young St Kensington

Friday

21

7½

Sir W & Lady Molesworth. to remind.
13 Young St. Kensington

Friday

21

7½



1656.

TO MRS. MONTGOMERY

[1846-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Kensington. Friday.

Dear M^{rs} Montgomery.

If you did but know all or half this weary h& is forced to do in these days, I am sure you would pardon me for not having answered your kind note sooner. I am working just now and for 4 or 5 days more to come from morning till long after bread-and-butter time. But when my business is done I shall have very much pleasure in coming to you and asking for a cup of the best of teas.

Always truly yours

W M Thackeray

1657.

TO MRS. MONTGOMERY

[1848-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear M^{rs} Montgomery

Knowing that I was very anxious to pay a visit to this house a lady & friend of mine has given me a pretext, and I appear if you please as Ambassador from M^{rs} Brookfield in the Bourgeois as Governess business.

M^{rs} B who has {housed and sheltered} lunched I think is the proper word) M^{lle} Bourgeois, whom I have also seen at her house, says that her sister at Exeter (M^{rs} Tinling) gives the most favorable testimony of Mad^{lle} B — indeed sent her to London to M^{rs} Brookfield

Tho she was obliged to leave the School at Exeter, she is only one of very many French teachers who have shared the same fate at the hands of the ojou vulgar cruel & domineering Miss Morrish — in fact what could a woman be whose name was Morrish?

The Paris association it appears will take much time before they answer your letter — First they will write to Morrish, next to London to find how M^{lle} Bourgeois has been spending her time here — to w^h M^{rs} Brookfield will have to reply — then finally an answer may be sent to M^{rs} Montgomery by this slow coach of an association.

Meanwhile la Bourgeois languit dans la solitude and the anguishes of deferred hope — I can bear witness that she talks good French is not too good looking and yet not disagreeable: and M^{rs} Brookfield has bidden me to enclose a letter from M^r Chancellor Martin (who M. le Chancelier is I dont know,) bearing witness to the good beayviour of the lady — A note also is humbly forwarded from the Association of Institutresses to show that M^{lle} B does actually form one of the number.

At 6 o'clock if you sh^d have returned I myself shall be on my way back into town, and will ask leave to call again and see if there be any answer to this long note for

Yours dear Madam very sincerely
W M Thackeray

P. S. Does anybody want any more drawings in their albums.

1658.

TO ALFRED MONTGOMERY

[1848-1863].

Address: Alfred Montgomery Esq^r Hitherto unpublished.

Jeudi avec grand plaisir cher et aimable Montgomeri. Oui je passe trois fois par mois pres de Somerset House mais Jamais avant 3 heures. — Oui vous avez été bien bon. et de venir et de me pardonner. Nous réconcilierons Jeudi au Coventri Club.

Tout a vous de coeur cher Alfred
Chevalier de Titmarsh.

1659.

TO LADY MORLEY

[1846-1855]

Published in *Biographical Introductions*, VI, xxviii-xxix, where the drawing here reproduced opposite p. 344 is reproduced in facsimile.

But, permit me to say dear Lady Morley — Merciful powers! what must have been the astonishment of the reigning Duchess on entering her grand daughters apartment long before daybreak on the bridal morning (with her maids of honour called up from their couches to attend the anxious parent & Sovereign) what I say must have been her H's astonishment to find the Princess's couch deserted! —

Yes deserted! — The virgin night-cap lay crimped and undisturbed on the unruffled pillow, the pillow on the swelling feather-bed — w^h that night — enfin, w^h had not been slept upon that night. The room was vacant. The window was open. The bird had flown.

Dear Lady Morley, Adelgisa had fled!

With best respects to your family circle believe me ever faithfully yours

Samuel Rogers.

1660.

TO LADY MORGAN? ²³

[1846-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Madam

H. Hallam will tell your ladyship why it is that the Fates prevent me from coming to your party (I would have said your fête but luckily remembered the pun just in time) — to your party I say to night. There are men coming here to day, & the brutes will smoke after dinner. He refused to dine in consequence of that horrid dessert, & in order that he might keep himself pure for you.

I am very glad indeed to hear that you are well again. Is

²³ Lady Morgan lived at 11 William Street (*Royal Blue Book*, 1851).

General Cabrera²⁴ coming? What man need despair when such a one carries off the great prize.

I hope you enjoyed your dinner yesterday — I rode round your Brougham intending to pay you a visit in it: but, going in to your neighbours house for a moment, you were gone when I came out. I leave this at your door and trust that the evening will pass off brilliantly in William St. w^h it cant do on account of the smoke on the premises of

Your humble servant to command
W M Thackeray

1661. TO GEORGE WILLIAM NICKISSON

[1841-1846]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dover.

Tuesday. Evg.

My dear Nickisson

I wish you would look at the accompanying paper — w^h I think exceedingly good and apropos. It is written by one of the best critics on art I know of — not excepting The Titmarsh: and I hope you will have my friends paper & that it will make a figure in the Magazine.

Yrs ever

W M Thackeray

1662.

TO MRS. OLLIFFE

[1848-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear M^{rs} Olliffe

Let Tuesday be the happy day to take the dinner and the tay.

Yours very truly

W M Thackeray

²⁴ Ramon Cabrera (1806-1877), the Carlist General.

But, hurried on to say dear lady Morley - beautiful person! what must have been the astonishment of the young Duchess on entering her grand daughter's apartment the long



before day break on the bridal morning (with her train of honours called up from their corner to attend the nuptials present a dowry) what I say must have been her H's astonishment to find the Ducal's coach deserted! -

As deserted! - The virgin night-cap lay crumpled and undisturbed on the uncrumpled pillow, the pillow on the swathing feather bed - not that night - again, not had not been sleep upon that night. The room was vacant. The windows were open. The bird had flown.

Dear lady Morley, Adeline has fled!

With her respects to your family circle believe me ever faithfully yours
Samuel Rogers.

1663.

TO LADY OLLIFFE

[1853-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Lady Olliffe.

The cake w^h you were so unkind as to send me has made me very unwell. I could not help eating a great deal too much of it and I know very well that I shall go on eating and eating as long as any of it remains. How many enjoyments are there in this life of w^h we will partake although we know they are injurious how many temptations (especially those bits of sweetmeat) w^h we cannot resist; how many things on the other hand w^h we are obliged to digest w^h are not near so agreeable as Lady Olliffes plum cake!

I am with sincere regret your most faithful Serv^t

Thomas Fraser

Archbishop of Dublin

1664.

TO LADY OLLIFFE

[1853-1863]

My text is taken from a Sotheby catalogue, June 14, 1926.

My dear Lady O.

If you please I will come to you.

Yours (in the middle of his work)

W. M. T.

1665.

TO JOSEPH PARKES

[1844-1850]

Address: J. Parkes Esq^e | 21 G^t George St | Westminster. Hitherto un-
lished.

My dear Parkes —

I am always engaged of a Monday at our weekly dinner with

My dear Parkes.

*I am always engaged of a
Monday at our weekly dinner*

Yours M^r



1666.

TO KATE PERRY

[1856-1863]

My text is taken from a facsimile in a Sotheby catalogue of May 30, 1934.

A party who's fond of ladies from Paris has just come
back

Good heavens how stupid it was! and to crown it all poor
Thack

Wound up his visit of duty with a twenty-fifth attack —
Then in came Sir Joseph Olliffe with his pills & his
doses black

And yesterday afternoon I returned (in the Folkestone
Smack)

And I'm very sorry you're out (and Somebody Else good
lack)

And I shake you all by the hand, and have no more rhymes
in my pack

1667.

TO SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK

1 MAY [1848-1854] ²⁵

My text is taken from *Works*, XIII, 79.

By fate's benevolent award,
Should I survive the day,
I'll drink a bumper with my lord
Upon the last of May.

That I may reach that happy time
The kindly gods I pray,
For are not ducks and peas in prime
Upon the last of May?

At thirty boards, 'twixt now and then,
My knife and fork shall play;
But better wine and better men
I shall not meet in May.

²⁵ These verses appear in Thackeray's *Ballads* (1855) under the heading "The Last of May: in reply to an invitation dated on the 1st."

TO MR. PRIDEAUX

And though, good friend, with whom I dine,
 Your honest head is grey,
 And, like this grizzled head of mine,
 Has seen its last of May;
 Yet, with a heart that's ever kind,
 A gentle spirit gay,
 You've spring perennial in your mind,
 And round you make a May!

1668.

TO MR. PRIDEAUX
 27 APRIL [1857-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e S. W.
 April 27.

My dear Prideaux

We have made a law against balls and must not break it for fear of being *criblé* with balls. Thank you for asking my girls and believe me

Yours gratefully
 W M Thackeray

1669.

TO MRS. PRINSEP
 28 MAY [1848-1852] ²⁶

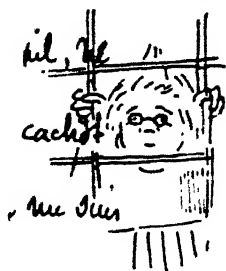
Hitherto unpublished.

13 Young Street à Kensington
 le 28 Mai

Les journaux, Madame, m'ont appris vôtre retour à Londres.
 Le printemps il me semble revient avec vous. Pauvre prisonnier,

²⁶ The Prinseps did not settle at Little Holland House in Kensington, where the painter Watts lived with them for twenty-five years, until five or six years after they returned to England from India in 1843 (*Dictionary of National Biography*).

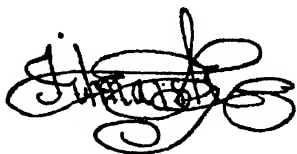
cloué à ma table de travail, voyant qu'à travers les grilles de mon cachot les douces fleurs printanières, souvent je me suis dit — que ne puis-je voir Madam Prinsep? L'infame n'a-t-elle donc plus de souvenirs? L'amitié est-elle oublieuse? Dans les tourbillons de la *fashionne*, dans les raouts splendides, les bons coeurs se noient ils quelquefois? Non, mille fois non, mon coeur me l'assure. Les hommes mentent ainsi, mentent et oublient. Les femmes sont plus fidèles. Doute de toi même, lâche hérétique — des femmes jamais! Pour elles jadis est aujourd'hui, elles seules conservent le culte archisaint du passé! Incrédule! As tu même remis une carte a cette porte autrefois si



hospitalière? — Cours y malheureux! Va faire honte à ta peur prématurée!

Voilà donc ma carte, Madame, moi même je la dépose sur votre seuil. Que veux je? vous voir encore une fois — et pourquoi? — pour vous dire que moi aussi je me souviens.

Minuit.



1670.

TO MRS. PROCTER

[1841-1843]

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript given Lady Ritchie by George Murray Smith.

Bedford Hotel,
Covent Garden,

My dear Mrs Procter,

You saw how ill I behaved the other day, expectorating like an American. I have been so bad since with cough and influenza that I have been fit to go nowhere, and go off this evening Paris-wards. I oughtn't to go, and had much better be in bed. But then my Mother would be in such a terrible fright! What ink they give one at inns! You will hardly be able to see the Good bye all which I send from

Yours affectionately,
W. M. Thackeray.

1671.

TO MRS. PROCTER
JUNE [1844-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear M^{rs} Procter

I look in my book and I'm ready to cry I find I'm engaged on the first of July. The fourth and the fifth I am also put by, but some other evening? I hope you will try.

Ever yours
W M Thackeray

1672.

TO BRYAN WALLER PROCTER
30 MARCH [1848-1863]

Hitherto unpublished. My text is taken from a transcript given Lady Ritchie by George Murray Smith.

March 30.

My dear old B. C.

I should not wish to have this made public, but I find that if I have been out to a very good dinner, and read a dozen letters on coming home at night I sometimes forget part of them. So I looked at the first lines of your note — cut off the cheque and put it away — and forgot all about the lady of the poems, until yesterday when I read your note through — or again, which was it?

Of course you are welcome to my little subscription. I'm vexed that I had not looked more carefully at your letter.

Always yours,
W. M. T.

TO R.

1673.

TO R.
[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

13 Young Street Kensington

My dear R

Friday

Will you please to remember that you dine with me at the G on Monday? Bedad we'll make a night of it. And will you please to keep it in mind that you are due with me at Richmond most probbly on Thursday? Make your own game and let me know.



Always most faithfully
W M Thackeray

1674.

TO A. RADCLIFFE
[1854-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 O. Sq^e S. W
May 13.

My dear Radcliffe

I will write to Ritchie, who is my cousin; and your brother in law shall have all my gigantic influence in his behalf. But his case seems so good that I should think he may do without me very well.

I am very glad to have a line from you, disgusted to gather from your hints that when you come to London on business, the business isn't pleasant. So I am never to hear the wind whistle in the dear old house at Everton ²⁷ again? But I shall always remember how kind the people were in it. Give my best remembrances to Sir Edward Radcliffe, & the assurance from my daughters

²⁷ Thackeray stayed with Radcliffe at Northumberland Terrace, Everton, Liverpool, in October, 1852, and in December, 1856. This note may have been written a year or two after either visit.

of as much affection as is consonant with maidenly modesty. Also kind regards please to any of your friends at Lpool who remember

Yours always

W M Thackeray.

If Teddy has holyday time about now, couldnt he come to us for a week? We'll get him a bed round the corner & send him to all sorts of larks and divarsion.

1675.

TO CHARLOTTE RITCHIE

[1849-1854]

Hitherto unpublished.

Sunday. Rue d'Angouleme

My dear Charlotte

We go to dine with Stevens to day at his Tuskulum;²⁸ and I suppose tomorrow must dine with the elders but on Tuesday if you will have us, we 3 will be delighted to come. At 6 I suppose dont mind answering.

Always afftly everybody's

W M Thackeray

1676.

TO SAMUEL ROGERS

29 JUNE [1847-1851]

My text is taken from P. W. Clayden's *Rogers and his Contemporaries* (London, 1889), II, 231.

13²⁹ Young Street, Kensington: 29th June.

My dear Sir, — The moment I had finished my work yesterday and had returned to this real world, I thought to myself, "Does Mr. Rogers remember that he invited me (that is, that I asked him to ask me and he asked me) to breakfast with him on the 30th?" The transaction took place at Mr. Sartoris's: in the presence of witnesses — and to-morrow is the day. I shall not trouble Mr. Rogers to write to me (I reasoned with myself), but at 10

²⁸ Stevens was a dentist.

²⁹ Clayden reads 73.

o'clock I will be at his door. I will say, "A gentleman who was invited a fortnight and a day ago comes to claim his breakfast. The host may have forgotten, but the guest has not."

And I give you warning, my dear sir, that this visit is hanging over you, and that unless you fly from London you can't help hearing my knock at your door at 10 to-morrow morning.

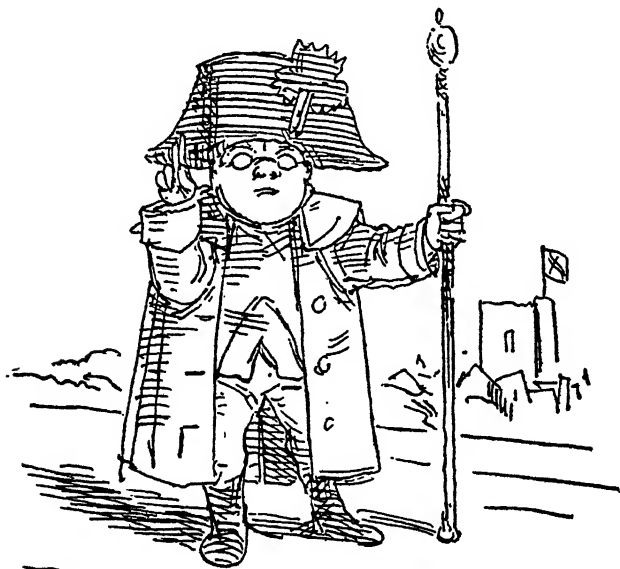
Always faithfully yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

1677.

TO LADY RACHEL RUSSELL ³⁰

[1846-1853]

Published in facsimile in *Thackeray in the United States*, II, 184.



J. Pummell Beadle of Kensington presents his compce to Lady Rachel Russell, and begs to Suttify that the young man is known to me who have put out the Inclosed Andbill.³¹

³⁰ Youngest daughter (d. 1898) of the sixth Duke of Bedford. She married Lord James Wandesforde Butler in 1856.

³¹ The enclosure has not been preserved.

He live in Young St: as a Fammlly: and pays his taxes reglar. The tradesmen know him and trust him. And though at Church seldom, must say in the Watchus he never Ave been.

Pummell begs his duty to her Grace and as usual lets neat flys & Brooms on Jobbs: and supplies the Nobillaty with fish at exackly double the London Prices.

1678.

TO LAURA SMITH

[1848-1863]

My text is taken from a facsimile in Johnson's *Early Writings of William Makepeace Thackeray*, p. 49.



My dear Miss Laura

Words quite fail me. I never saw such a beautiful pen wiper in my life. Receive in lew of it the thanks and blessings of an old man. —

1679.

JAMES SPEDDING
15 JUNE [1854-1861]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^{re}
June 15.

My dear J. S.

Will you and your young friend come and dine here on Sunday at 7?

I send you my first effort in serious verse.³² And since I composed it — knowing my ancient friend you're undertaking this ever so long a History of Lord Baking — most strongly recommend as greatly fitter at your — advanced old age the light poetic literature.

In the romantic little town of Highbury
My father kep a circulating library.
Mamma was an innabitant of Drogheda,
Where my dear Pa fust met her and enjoyed her.*
I in the famous island of Jamaica
From early youth have been a sugar-baker.

³² Spedding repeated these lines to Trollope, who prints a modified version of them in his *Thackeray* (p. 32), remarking slyly that "There may, perhaps, have been a mistake in a line". The fourth verse, indeed, has become:

Very good she was to darn and to embroider.

In Mr. Ball's Album there are also the following unpublished stanzas added by Thackeray to an undated note from FitzGerald to Spedding:

Impromptu

On the Viscountess **** at Court this day.
To court the fair Emily came
All blazing in pearls and in rubies
Her stomacher all in a flame
From her shoulder strap down to her pubis.
But ah! should her Ladyship strip
I'd care not for pearls or for rubies
What ruby's as red as her lip
What pearl is as white as her boobies!
Louisa to dear James: with love.

And here I dwell the *Muse's* appy vot'ry }
 A-cultivat in every kind of potry }
 Under the shadow of the green cocōa-tree. }
 * He followed in his youth that man immortal who
 Conquered the Frenchman on the field of Warterloo

1680. TO CLARKSON STANFIELD
 [1837-1843]

My text is taken from a reduced facsimile in *The Dickensian*, XXII (1926), 204, 217. I have not traced the original, which was owned by Mrs. Walton of Eltham in 1926.

13 Coram St

My dear Stanfield.

By some mistake your kind invitation to dinner does not specify the *day* when I am to have the honour of dining with you I only want to know the date, I have not the slightest doubt but that I shall be disengaged

ever your faithfully attached
 Wilhelmina

1681. TO MRS. STURGIS
 [1848-1863]

My text is taken from an American Art Association catalogue, November 17, 1919.

My dear Mrs. Sturgis:

I am so very sorry about Monday & humbly beg your pardon. I didn't think any day was fixed for dining with you except the 1 April, when I hope you and Mr. Sturgis will come to dine with me and see one or two pretty Englishwomen.

Always yours,
 W. M. Thackeray.

1682. TO WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY
SYNGE ³³
[1860-1863]

Published by Merivale and Marzials, *Thackeray*, p. 243. My text is taken from *Thackeray in the United States*, I, 105-106.

My dear William Makepeace Thackeray Synge, —

I just saw this nice fish in a shop, and thought it would be a nice gift for my godson. Dear boy, when you have some princes to dine give them this, and when they have quite done and the shell is clean, I think you may make boats of the tail and boots of the claws. I wish the man had not cut the claw off. He did it with his great knife, and at the same time hit me on the nose. I did not cry much, and I am your true friend and godpapa. P. S. I cannot eat any of it. I am glad. . . .

1683. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE
[1853-1863]

Reproduced in facsimile by Madigan, *Word Shadows of the Great*, pp. 212-213.

Sir I am desired by Lord Palmerston to say that Perhaps you have heard of Miss Simons? She dines at a twopenny Pieman's But when she goes out to a ball or a Rout Her stomach is covered with di'monds. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Serv^t

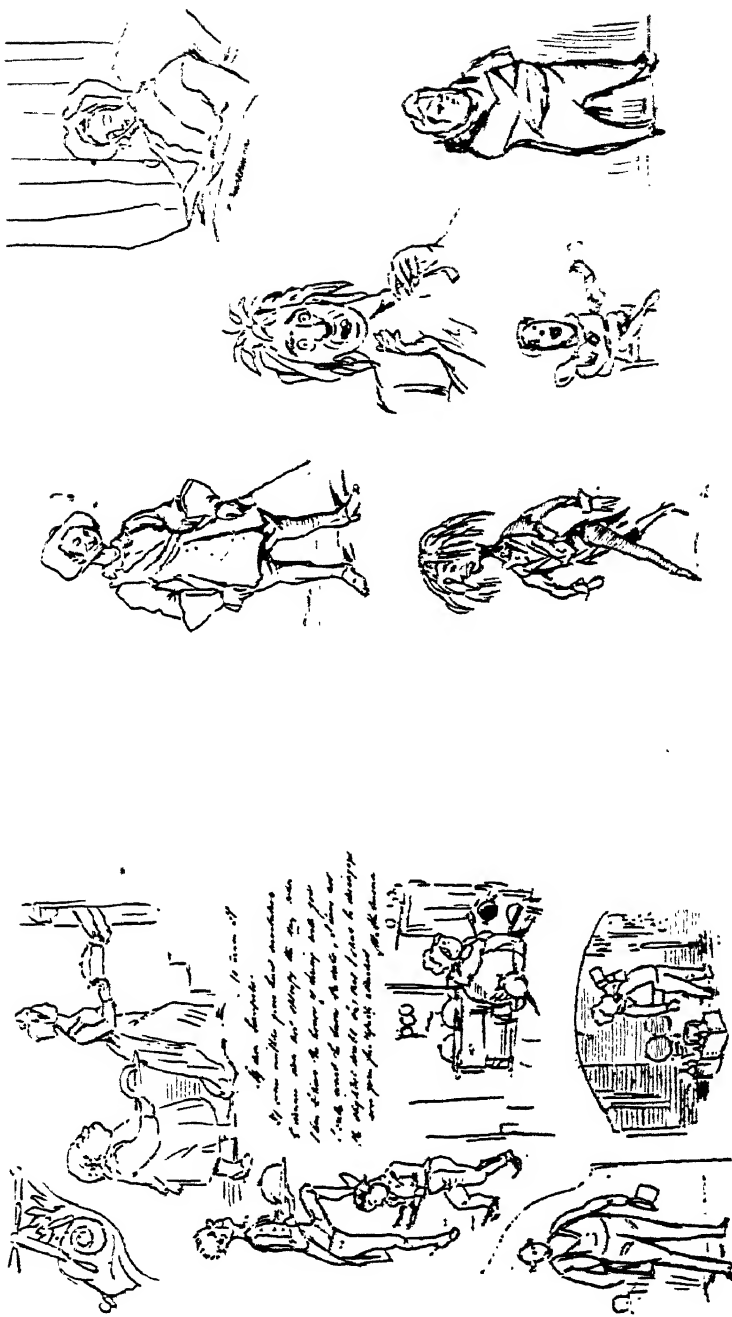
W M Tomkins

1684. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE
[1853-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

I make you and your wife and M^r Gilbert my compliments. — am just on the way to order dinner at the Garrick with Bob Bell.

³³ Thackeray's godson, born August 5, 1860.



AN UNDATED LETTER FROM 'THACKERAY TO CLARKSON STANFIELD

and Tom Fraser at 6.30. If you can join our party we shall be delighted.

W. M. T.

Feast of O. B. L.

1685. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE

[1853-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Synge

Here is the answer from Smith & Elder regarding the little scheme w^h you proposed to them —

Your friend M^r Lucas's brother came upon me on Sunday at lunch with a letter from you, asking me for 2 days work and a contribution of money for a charity. I gave him 10£. but declined the dinner and speechifying. So much obliged to you for sending him to

Yours ever

W M T.

1686. TO WILLIAM WEBB FOLLETT SYNGE

[1860-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear S

Had nt you better dine here on Sunday? Bring the ladies & Trollope too. 7 o'clock

W M T.

1687.

TO ALFRED TENNYSON

[1841-1863]

My text is taken from the second Baron Tennyson's *Alfred Lord Tennyson*, I, 266-267.

My dear Alfred,

I woke at 2 o'clock and in a sort of terror at a certain speech I had made about Catullus.³⁴ When I have dined, sometimes I believe myself to be equal to the greatest painters and poets. That delusion goes off; and then I know what a small fiddle mine is and what small tunes I play upon it. It was very generous of you to give me an opportunity of recalling a silly speech: but at the time I thought I was making a perfectly simple and satisfactory observation. Thus far I must *unbus'm* myself: though why should I be so uneasy at having made a conceited speech? It is conceited not to wish to seem conceited. With which I conclude,

Yours, W. M. T.

³⁴ Thackeray and Tennyson "had been dining together," writes the second Lord Tennyson (I, 266), "and my father said, 'I love Catullus for his perfection in form and for his tenderness, he is tenderest of Roman poets,' and quoted the lines about Quintilia's death ending with

'Quo desiderio veteres renovamus amores

Atque olim amissas flemus amicitias' —

lines which he would translate by four lines from one of Shakespeare's Sonnets,

'Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow

For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,

And weep afresh Love's long since cancell'd woe,

And moan the expense of many a vanish'd sight,'

and the stanza from the 'Julia et Mallii Epithalamium,'

'Torquatus, volo, parvulus

Matris e gremio suæ

Porrigens teneras manus

Dulce rideat ad patrem,

Semihiente labello.'

Thackeray answered, 'I do not rate him highly, I could do better myself.' Next morning my father received this apology."

1688. TO ANNE THACKERAY
[1848-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dearest Fat.

You must both of you work hard during my absence: and have the carriage when you like and go to Portman St and Hampstead once. And God bless you prays your

Papa.

1689. TO ANNE THACKERAY
[1854-1862]

Address: Miss Thackeray | 36 Onslow Square —. Hitherto unpublished.

I have just remembered LADY GLASGO Order a fresh horse to be ready with the Brougham against Sims returns at 10.15. And fetch me with a bag of Clothes from the Athenæum at 10.30.

May my daughter live 1000 years.

W M T.

1690. TO ANNE AND HARRIET THACKERAY
[1849-1856]

Hitherto unpublished.

Monday. 1.

My dearest Shildren.

I have had a good night am all right and the Doctor retiring with his compliments says to a roast leg of mutton you may go. How sick you will be of hearing of my being always ill!

Davison read my letter to you on Sunday night but didnt know it was in verse. I shall be soon back I spose and have a respite now for 10 days haven't I? but this attack has been quite different to the others and decidedly choleraic. Good by my dears.

In the Morning Post of yesterday theres an advertisement of a

piano to be sold at 86 Gower Street Bedford Sq^{re}. You might take a fly and go see it.

W M T.

1691.

TO GENERAL THACKERAY

[1854-1860]

Address: General Thackeray. Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq^e Friday.

My dear General

Lady Elizabeth has promised to come to a scrambling dinner at 7 *chez moi* and I do hope you will be of the party. It is only made up within 2 hours, and I dont quite know how many there are or if there's enough for dinner.

Yours ever

W. M. Thackeray.

1692.

TO MR. TORNOW

[1846-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Tornow

Will you dine en famille with us on Monday at 7. 30. If I can find any pleasant person to meet you I will: if you like pleasure theatres London delights pray dont come to my humdrum quarters: if you have *no* better sport in view, do come and shake by the hand

Your old friend

W M Thackeray

1693. TO ANTHONY TROLLOPE
[1861-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Trollope.

I haven't a lecture by me except that stale old Humour & Charity w^h I give for literary men in distress *not* for Societies — Otherwise there w^d be no end to the calls on me.

So with the greatest desire to do what you ask — you see I cant. And as for writing a lecture just now I am much too busy preparing my friend Philip.

Yours ever
W M T.

Have you mind to dine here on Monday at 7.30?

1694. TO HORATIO WADDINGTON?
[1849-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear Horatio I am afraid of the eleven o'clock dinner & had better be in bed at that hour. Yours ever. W M Thackeray.

1695. TO MR. WALLER ³⁵
[1854-1862]

My text is taken from a Henkels catalogue, November 12, 1903.

Onslow Square

Dear Mr. Waller

The fire from my chimnies communicates to the Barons ³⁶ walls, and smoke breaks through the panels of his drawing room. Will

³⁵ Robert John Waller, builder, 26 Grosvenor Street West, Pimlico (*Watkins's London Directory*, 1855).

³⁶ Baron Marochetti.

you send somebody to examine my fire places and my neighbours?
We may all be in ashes if we don't mind.

Faithfully yours,
W. M. Thackeray.

1696.

TO MRS. ELIOT WARBURTON

[1848-1852]

Hitherto unpublished.

Tuesday.

Dear M^{rs} Warburton Do not Judge harshly of me yet: attribute my absence to indispensable engagements; my silence to continual occupation — I've been writing so much that I hate the sight of a pen; and get so nervous that I tremble before answering an invitation. Dont let Eliot write too much therefore: lest you should have him in my woful condition: and till I am free in a day or two

Believe me Yours very truly
W M Thackeray

I wanted to come to you on Saturday, but I was beat & broke down.

1697.

TO SAMUEL WARD

[1853-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday.

My dear Ward

One or 2 friends dine with me at Voisin's at 7 o'clock today. Will you be des nôtres?

Always yours
W M Thackeray.

1698.

TO SAMUEL WARREN

[1857-1862]

Address: S. Warren Esq^{re} | 16 Manchester Square. Hitherto unpublished.

Saturday

My dear Warren.

When I am parturient with one of my numbers, I don't accurately hear what is said to me, or remember what I say or read. It appears that I, the girls, and Edward Thackeray all made an engagement to dine with you — and to this minute I don't recollect it. What are we to do? Will you have the young ones without the old one? You will get me out of a scrape, if you will be generous: and the young folks shall dine with you or not entirely as you think fit to decide.

I am much annoyed by the blunder and pray you to forgive

Yours sincerely

W M Thackeray

1699.

TO WILLIAMS AND NORGATE

10 OCTOBER [1848-1852]

Hitherto unpublished.

13 Young St Kensington.

10 October.

Gentlemen

I have been too ill until now to acknowledge your letter. I shall be happy to agree with M^r Tauchnitz's terms, & will thank you to send me the 20£ w^h you have in charge for me.

Yours very faithfully

W M Thackeray

Mess^{rs} Williams Norgate.

1700.

TO WILLIAM YARDLEY

[1841-1846]

My text is taken from a facsimile in an American Art Galleries catalogue of April 18, 1923.



Dear Yardley Having dropped into Hewson's Rooms at 5 o'clock I found him and Morgan John O'Connell in the following attitude & costumes. Summers Hartford waited yesterday upon his Sovereign and Frank Murphy has lost his voice Rose is winning as usual at billiards and we all remain

Yours &c —

1701.

TO ?

[1837-1840]

Hitherto unpublished.

M^{rs} Thackeray made such wry faces at the idea of my going away for two days, that I must give up the notion I fear. — it is all settled

I believe that I am to be turned off on Tuesday the 23^d so please to receive this in lieu of plumb cake.

ever yours

W. M. Thackeray

1702.

TO ?

[1841-1843]

Hitherto unpublished.

Tuesday.

I'm entirely ashamed of what I'm going to say and do. Instead of coming to tea I'm going to Brighton. There are no lodgings to be had in the whole town; and I must be lodged somewhere to night, and at work tomorrow morning. But unless you write to tell me you forgive me, Remorse will pursue me like a fiend to the Chain Pier: and I shall never forgive myself.

the distracted

Titmarsh.

1703.

TO ?

[1842-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

Sir

Mr. Mark Lemon is the Editor of Punch I am only a contributor to that periodical, nor can he return rejected contributions nor answer the innumerable correspondents of the journal w^h he conducts.

I return your paper & am Sir

Your very obdt Servt

W M Thackeray

I myself have no control over the arrangements of the paper & am only concerned for my own contributions.

368

TO LADY ?

1704.

TO LADY ?
[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

Kensington. Wednesday

Dear Madam

Who can have all the objects of his desire in this life? I should have liked to meet M^{rs} Trelawney very much but shall still be very happy to dine with your Ladyship, and in spite of the misfortune shall come to dinner with the contentment and appetite of a philosopher

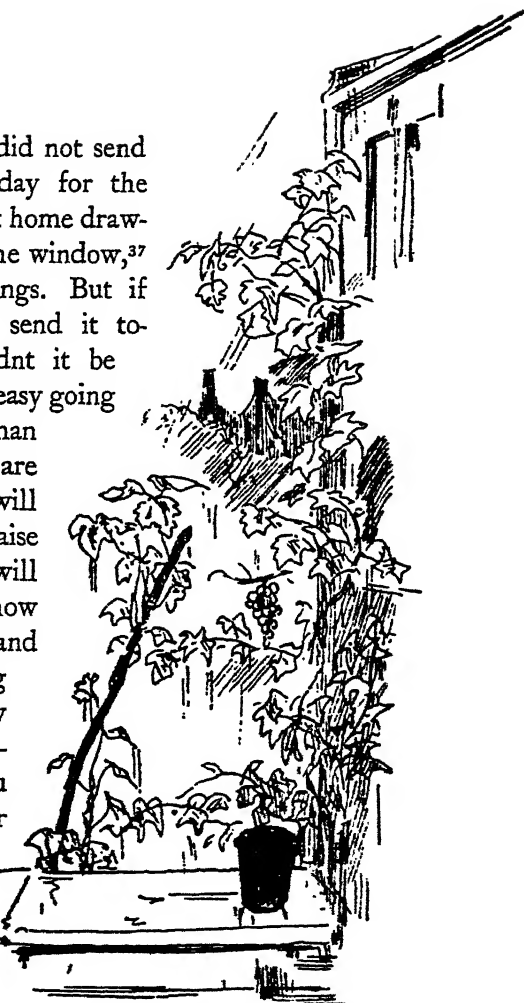
Very faithfully yours
W M Thackeray

1705.

TO ?
[1846-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

My dear lady I did not send the hand-chaise to day for the reason w^h keeps me at home drawing the vine out of the window,³⁷ and thinking of things. But if you please shall I send it to-morrow? Or wouldnt it be better to have a very easy going Brougham from my man here, whose charges are moderate, and who will not jolt you as the chaise I fear will. And will you please let me know which you will have and whether I shall bring the carriage tomorrow if it is fine at 12 o'clock: And will you believe that I never never will laugh at you in my sleeve, but the contrary: and that I will always be truly and respectfully yours.



Wm.

³⁷ At 13 Young Street, Kensington.

1706.

TO ?

4 JANUARY [1847-1851]

Hitherto unpublished.

à Kinsington ce 4 Janv^r

Mosieur!

Au jour de l'an nous avons goûté de votre beau cadeau de Rhom de Jamaïque

Ah Mosieur! qu'il est bon, votre rhum de Jamaïque! — et que vous méritez une année bonne et heureuse, comme vous la souhaite.

Votre serviteur dévoué



P. S. I have got such a beautiful pen that I can't help performing exercises of calligraphy

1707.

TO ?
[1848-1863]Extract published by Professor Dodds, *Thackeray*, p. 22.

Sir

My first published book was the Paris Sketch Book in '38 or '39. Part of it had previously appeared in Fraser's Magazine previously, and a Comic story called 'the Professor' was I think my first regular appearance as a paid author, in Bentley's Miscellany 1837 I think, but about dates I am not certain.

Your very obdt Servt

W M Thackeray.

1708.

TO ?
[1850-1853]

Hitherto unpublished.

Dear Sir

I promised Miss Power a contribution for the Keepsake,³⁸ w^h I send and beg you to forward to the Printer. I am going away immediately: but the MS. is so clear that I scarcely need see a proof.

Faithfully yours

W M Thackeray.

1709.

TO ?
2 JUNE [1854-1861]

Hitherto unpublished.

Brompton. June 2.

Dear Madam

Indeed I am quite at a loss how to advise you, not knowing the bent of your mind nor the literature w^h you should choose. When

³⁸ Contributions by Thackeray appeared in *The Keepsakes* of 1851, 1853, and 1854.

I was young I read everything I could lay my hands on — and what I wrote was bad and poor stuff for many years — Whereas some people begin to write well young — witness M^r Dickens, and M^r Tennyson who was a great poet at 20. No one can advise another on this score but the more you know, the better for you. For learning the structure of the English language to know Latin is very necessary: but I would no more counsel you to imitate any given person's style than to imitate any one's tone of voice. You should know that there are thousands & thousands of ladies and men too who would like to write stories and to help their families. You have first to have the undoubted merit and genius, then to succeed in persuading a publisher; then to succeed in pleasing the public — I trust all these desirable things may happen for you: but who can help you? No instructor — only genius and industry. I wish I had more than these common-places to send in reply to your note, and am

Your very faithful Servant
W M Thackeray.

1710.

TO ?
[1856-1862]

Hitherto unpublished.

36 Onslow Sq. July 21.

Sir

I can't from the specimen you send me, by any means venture on a prophecy as to your success as a literary man. No man can predict another's fortune in that profession, or help another to much effect: or possibly say after the perusal of 20 pages what a young writer's future development may be. I read your sheet through and was amused — might take an exception or two, but indeed I must not. I am writing by this post to another gentleman who sends a long MS. work, asks an opinion, wants a publisher, and to whom I am obliged to give but disheartening council. I wish this task were not

put upon me so often or that in your instance I could offer you direct encouragement to pursue literature. Believe me

Your very faithful Serv^t
W M Thackeray.

1711.

TO ?
[1857-1863]

Hitherto unpublished.

The day after the



When the girls told me that they had written to you to ask whether they might bring partners — their father's usually benevolent countenance looked as black as thunder.



After the ball this morning Minny says 'Well, Papa, I think it was very impudent of us to think of asking to bring partners to such a ball. Why, it was the most beautiful thing I ever saw.'

And I was pretty well for the 1st time this ever so long and thought of going. Lucky I didn't. Had refused Sheriff's dinner on plea of being too unwell to dine out.

I am glad it was such a great success and will sign my name some other day — as that of your most humble Servant.

P. S. Somebody had told the girls that they might ask & I told them they had taken a liberty

1712.

TO ?

[1860-1862]

My text is taken from Goodspeed's catalogue 293 (1938).

My dear Sir,

I am just writing to my cousin who has put in an indignant protest too: and if someone will send me a smart and pleasant article, not too long — I shall be delighted to let the public hear the *alteram partem*. Cooksley might do it, might he not? But it won't be in time for the next number.

Very faithfully yours,

W. M. Thackeray.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX XVIII

THACKERAY IN NORWICH, MAY, 1857

During May, 1857, the Whitwell Elwins spent two days with Thackeray in Norwich, where he was lecturing. The following notes on his visit, which were made by Mrs. Elwin, are reprinted from *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 177-182.

He speaks very low. I found it needed attention to catch each word. He does not develop his ideas much; he only puts into words just the thought that passes through his own mind. This gives a fragmentary air to his talk. He seems little to care whether it is set off fully and to advantage, or even whether those who hear him altogether take it in. He showed two manners, — one very quiet, very earnest, very deep, almost pathetic; another (a general and much more common manner) is like one who played at ball with every subject, tossing them about with a light, careless, but unerring hand, taking up one thing after another, — serious and gay, trifling or important, — and sporting with them as though he would get pleasantries out of everything. But if any religious subject was spoken of he talked with solemnity and earnestness.

If you did not know who he was, the first thing which would strike you would be that he was a man who looked with a magician's eye through and through everything before him. In five minutes you know he has made a complete inventory of the room, and he has weighed out everybody in it. He sits quietly watching a face for two whole minutes, and then he turns away, having spelt every letter of the character. He is constantly speaking of the sort of face a man has, — "he has a bad face," "a hang-dog face," etc. Badness mars all talent in his eyes. He talks of someone who is clever, and he then adds, "But he is a bad man," as if we had no right to admire a bad clever man. On the other hand, he is always throwing in gentle, considerate excuses for everybody. "So-and-so has this and that weakness." — "Ah, but then remember such and such a reason for his excuse," — "Remember such and such a good quality notwithstanding." He seems to notice the slightest specks of goodness.

As the hour for the lecture got near, he left. I had gone soon after dinner to sit with the children. When Thackeray left the dining-room he opened the door where we were, and said in his grave pathetic voice, "I am come to say good-night," and took each child's hand, and lingered for a moment with their hands in his own. Then he stepped out into the balcony, took out his purse, and threw a shilling to a brass band which had been playing before the window. "Now then for the sermon," he

said, turning to me, and went to his own hotel to prepare for the lecture.

He talks quite freely and simply of his own writings — tells a story, and then adds that it suggested such and such a trait of one of his characters. He said, "People tell me such and such a character is not natural; but I *know* it is natural, that it is to the life."¹

It is evident that he does not set a tremendous price on his own writings. It appears as if he did not, and could not, labour them; and, being the produce of little effort, he cannot believe they are what they are. He replied to some of Whitwell's admiration of him, "Yes, but you rave; you are a maniac." Whitwell asked him how he found out his true vein, as his earliest things were not in it. He said he began to write when his misfortunes began, and then found it.

He said he regretted not having illustrated the Newcomes himself. Whitwell said the conception of the Colonel's face and figure was fine. "Oh yes," he said, "but I gave it Doyle. I drew the Colonel for him."

He laughed at the idea of future fame. He said he could not understand why any should care for fame after they were dead.

His mother he described as having been exquisitely handsome, and as fascinating everyone who came in her way. "When I was a child my mother took me to Exeter to a concert. She looked like a duchess. She came splendidly dressed, in a handsome carriage, and all suitable appurtenances. That was thirty years ago. The next time I went to Exeter it was I who danced on the tight rope. I took the girls down with me. I could see that the waiter at the inn took them for part of the performance, and expected them to put on their trousers and spangles, and come in and sing a comic song. We went and saw the place where Pendennis kissed Miss Costigan,² and identified it all quite satisfactorily."

"The first literary man I ever met was Croly. I was a lad of seventeen, on the top of a coach, going to Cambridge. Somebody pointed Croly out to me. I had read *Salathiel* at sixteen, and thought it divine. I turned back and gazed at him. The person who pointed him out to me said, 'I see that lad is fated!' He knew it by the way I gazed after him as a literary man."

"I once lent a man £300 to get an outfit for India. He lived on the same stairs with me at the Temple. He was to pay me when he could,

¹ "I heard a story the other day," Kingsley writes in *Yeast* (New York, 1909), p. 19, "of our most earnest and genial humorist, who is just now proving himself also our most earnest and genial novelist. 'I like your novel exceedingly,' said one lady; 'the characters are so natural — all but the baronet [old Sir Pitt Crawley], and he surely is overdrawn; it is impossible to find such coarseness in his rank of life!'"

The artist laughed. 'And that character,' said he, 'is almost the only exact portrait in the whole book.'

² See chapter 6 of *Pendennis*.

and in course of time he did pay me. He came home to England, and I went to see him, and asked him to dine with me that day three weeks, — at all events, my first vacant day. I asked him three times, and he never would come. At last he said, "The truth is, I *can't* come. If it had been in India, and you had come there, my house would have been open to you, and not to you only, but to all your friends to come and make it a home. And I come to England, and you ask me to dine with you *this day three weeks!*" The truth is, they live in India, and cherish such ideas of England, and a home, and love, that when they come to it they are disappointed. — You remember, Colonel Newcome was invited to dine *that day three weeks* with his brother?"³

"I think I shall take the girls, and go to India next year. I should like to see my native country. I have friends in almost all the judgeships. Twelve lectures would pay for it." Whitwell expressed his astonishment at this wish, but said, "I take it, you like a roving life." "Yes," said he, "I like it. I should never be at home if I could help." — "But, can you write away from home?" — "I write better anywhere than at home, and I write less at home than anywhere. I did not write ten pages of the Newcomes in that house at Brompton. I wrote two lectures in it. The last half of the Newcomes I wrote at Paris. This" — meaning an hotel — "is the best place to write in. After a good breakfast, I make one of the girls sit down to write. It is slow work. Sometimes not a sentence for a quarter of an hour. I could not do that with a stranger. With the young ones it is different, and they are delighted. A Scotchman came to me a little while ago, and I tried him as secretary, but he was deaf. I would begin, At this moment Anna entered the room, when the Captain observed to the Countess — What? — *The Captain observed to the Countess.* — But, you know, that couldn't go on."

Talking of the wearisomeness of going about lecturing, he said, "There is something very sweet about it, too. I meet everywhere such kindness and hospitality, — taken into families, and making friends among them, — so that there is quite a little heart-pang at parting." "People bring me autograph books to write my name in, — books full of the autographs of singers, fiddlers — I can't conceive what they want the autograph of a fiddler for. So I wrote my name under Signor Twankeydillo. — Now your address. — But that was too much, I would not write my address."

He said he made £70 by the lecture for ————. "I always have a charity lecture every year. It is so pleasant to feel that I always have twenty pounds in my pocket for a poor man."

"A lady, a blue, at New York, said to me at dinner, I was told I

³ See chapter 6 of *The Newcomes*.

should not like you, and I don't. — And I replied, I don't in the least care whether you like me or no. — She looked so surprised.”⁴

Whitwell said it was delightful to walk with him from Norwich to Thorpe, and see his keen enjoyment of the scene and of the beautiful day. He noticed the quick, artistic eye with which he viewed everything, but Thackeray said that it distressed him to find that he did not observe as much as he formerly did.

He told me it had been a delightful day to him, going over the old city. He said it was “a charming old city.” He thought Exeter a very fine city, but Norwich was much better. He thought the beauty of the cathedral cloisters wonderful. He went over the castle.⁵ The aspect of it “stifled” him. “The men in the zebra clothes” saddened him. He “panted to be out again.” His whole expression of face was disturbed as he talked of them, and he kept shuddering.

He wished to go and see Yarmouth, but Whitwell discouraged him, and told him there was nothing to see there. “I want to see the Great Ocean; I want to see where Peggotty lived.”⁶

⁴ See above, No. 964.

⁵ “Then used as the county gaol” (Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 182).

⁶ During the previous year Thackeray had told a group of friends in Philadelphia “that while he loved Colonel Newcome — and was delighted that other people did — he believed a finer gentleman was Dan'l Peggotty! It was really delightful to hear him sustain this position against many dissenting voices, and with such evident admiration for the character that no one who listened could fail to conceive a warmer regard both for Peggotty and Mr. Thackeray himself, so genuine was the praise of the old fisherman's tender and noble heart.” (McMichael, *Philadelphia Press*, June 12, 1887)

APPENDIX XIX

THE OXFORD ELECTION, 1857

In the general election of April, 1857, Thackeray's friend Charles Neate, leader of the Independent party in Oxford, appeared to have fulfilled a long-standing ambition, the disruption of the Whig-Liberal monopoly of the City of Oxford's seats in parliament. His opponents were Dr. James Haughton Langston, M. P. for the City from 1841 till his death in 1863, and the distinguished statesman Edward Cardwell (1813-1874), later (1874) first Viscount Cardwell of Ellerbeach, who represented the City from 1852 to 1857 and, after a few months' intermission, from 1857 to 1874. When the poll was declared, the results were found to be:

Langston	1,667
Neate	1,057
Cardwell	1,016. ¹

But Neate's triumph was short-lived. He was disqualified for bribery, and in July another election was announced for Oxford's second parliamentary seat.

The Liberal nominee was Viscount Monck, a wealthy Irish peer of little political strength. Neate persuaded Thackeray to be the Independent candidate, arguing that against such opposition his chances of victory were very good. Lady Ritchie writes that Thackeray later told her of

a charming little speech made by Lord Monck, which gave him great pleasure at the time. . . A sort of catchword, 'May the best man win', was the constant refrain just then.

My father meeting Lord Monck in the street, shook hands with him, had a little talk over the situation, and took leave of him with the doggerel, 'May the best man win'.

'I hope *not*,' said Lord Monck very cordially, with a kind little bow.²

Despite the efforts of Lord Monck's supporters to discredit Thackeray by airing his views on the Sabbath Question,³ he made an excellent can-

¹ At this time the population of Oxford was 27,843, exclusive of the University, but there were only 2,818 registered electors. See Dod's *Parliamentary Companion* (1857).

² *Biographical Introductions*, X, xxxi-xxxii.

³ See the handbills opposite pp. 382-383.

didate. His popularity was achieved without assistance from his literary reputation. Dickens relates, indeed, that he received a note from Thackeray in Oxford urging him to "come down and make a speech, and tell them who he was, for he doubted whether more than one or two of the electors had ever heard of him, and he thought there might be as many as six or eight who had heard of me!"⁴

It shortly became apparent that Lord Monck could not hope to win. He accordingly withdrew in favor of Cardwell, against whose heavy artillery Thackeray in turn had little chance. So we find Annie writing in her journal on the evening of July 21:

Papa came home beaten but in capital spirits and we are very happy again now, but the first news that Papa wasn't elected wasn't at all agreeable.

Thackeray	1005
Cardwell	1070 . . .

He has been telling us of a fat auctioneer who would call him Thackeray; he says if the poll had been put off a single day more he would have been obliged to kick him. He says he will never go canvassing again, it's too disgustingly humiliating. 'Are you Mr. Neat's friend? Master's h'out, but he said I was to say he would vote for yeou.'

Papa himself is a Cardwellite he says.⁵

The details of Thackeray's electioneering may be traced in the following manifesto and addresses.

I.

Broadside "To the Electors of the City of Oxford",⁶ July 9.

Gentlemen,

I should be unworthy of the great kindness and cordiality with which you have received me to-night were I to hesitate to put your friendship to the test and ask you to confirm it at the Poll.

To the Electors of the City who were not present I would repeat briefly the political opinions which I hold, and which agree in the main with those of the valued Representative whose services you have just lost. Would that mine could equal them! or that I could bring to them the aid upon which you could count from his talents, his eloquence, and the just confidence which you placed in a friend so well tried and known!

I would use my best endeavours not merely to enlarge the Constituen-

⁴ "In Memoriam", *Cornhill Magazine*, February, 1864, p. 130.

⁵ *Thackeray and his Daughter*, pp. 113-114.

⁶ My text is taken from a copy of this broadside in the Bodleian Library.

MR. THACKERAY'S

SENTIMENTS ON THE

Sabbath Question

“I would not only open the Crystal Palace, the British Museum, and the National Gallery but I would go further, and open the CONCERT ROOMS and THEATRES on Sundays.”

*Vide Report of the Speech delivered by Mr. Thackeray to his Friends
at the Mitre Hotel, July 9, 1857.*

From a broadside

THE
Sabbath Question.
TO THE
ELECTORS
OF THE
CITY OF OXFORD.

THE Paper which was put forth yesterday by Mr. Boddington, and in which my opinions regarding the Sunday Question were stated on my authority not appearing sufficient to you, I gladly give you my sentiments under my own signature.

I am desirous that the people who work hard all the week should have the means of relaxation, amusement, and instruction upon their only day of rest.

I would to this end open to them Picture Galleries, Museums, Scientific Collections, and such places as the Crystal Palace near London, where are to be found Gardens and Flowers, Statues and Pictures, and objects the most harmless and beautiful.

I believe the labouring man would enjoy these sights in company with his family, and that the enjoyment of them would keep him from intoxication, not lead him into it, as opponents of my views fear. Those who have seen our great cities know how the Sunday is often passed, and whether drunkenness is prevented by the present Legislation. Should the opening of such a place as the Crystal Palace be found to occasion drinking and disorder, which I disbelieve, surely a stop may be put to the sale of intoxicating liquors in that place on the Sunday.

I never spoke or thought of opening Theatres on Sunday.—I would try to multiply the means of procuring peace and harmless pleasure for the people on that day, and know that in many Theatrical Pieces there are jests, and allusions, and situations ill-fitted indeed to any, but especially to the Sacred Day.

I would consent to and encourage good Band-Music, which has been played before our Sovereigns for a hundred years past; but would object to Songs, for the same reason that renders me averse to Plays,—because Songs may be made vehicles for jokes and buffoonery, which, on such a day, might justly shock the sense of religious persons. And I believe the relaxation of the present system would make many people friendly to the Clergy whom they now suppose to be hostile to their honest pleasures; would be a means of happiness and union amongst the families of the Poor; and ought not to offend the feelings of any Christian man.

Your very faithful Servant,

W. M. THACKERAY.

Mitre, July, 18, 1857.

VINCENT, PRINTER, OXFORD.

From a broadside

cies, but to popularize the Government of this Country. With no feeling but that of good will towards those leading Aristocratic Families who are administering the chief offices of the State, I believe that it could be benefited by the skill and talents of persons less aristocratic, and that the country thinks so like wise.

I think that to secure the due freedom of Representation, and to defend the poor voter from the chance of intimidation, the Ballot is the best safeguard we know of, and would vote most hopefully for that measure. I would have the Suffrage amended in nature, as well as in numbers; and hope to see many Educated Classes represented who have now no voice in Elections.

The China War Question, which occasioned the dissolution of the late Parliament, is now settling itself; and that Gun being charged must be fired home. Should the Country have to engage in another and more terrible contest, which even now may be pending, I hope that men of all sides will be as one, and will aid to the utmost of their power the Ministry, whatever it may be, which shall best know how to employ the immense zeal and wealth, and talents, and bravery of the Country for a happy termination of the struggle.

But the usefulness of a Member of Parliament is best tested at home: and should you think fit to elect me as your Representative, I promise to use my utmost endeavour to increase and advance the social happiness, the knowledge, and the power of the people.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your faithful Servant,
W. M. Thackeray.

Mitre, July 9, 1857.

II.

Address at the Town Hall,⁷ July 10.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have the hardest task before me; I have to try and answer in some degree for the extraordinary praise with which my friend Mr. Neate has been pleased to speak of me. I have to speak after one of the most eloquent and kind addresses, I can assure you, I have ever heard. (Cheers.) To bespeak your praise, being so little known to any of you at this moment, would be idle; even to say that I possess the power of eloquence — which I wish to Heaven that I had — would be vain, for I shall break down very likely in a sentence or two, and you will have to moralise on the strange fact that a gentleman who can spin off sentence after sentence in his study, is hard put to it to find

⁷ My text is taken from *The Oxford University Herald*, July 11, p. 10.

words when he is on his legs. (Laughter and cheers.) But very seldom in my life does such an event as this happen to me. On the first occasion on which it happened I think it was in a room about twice as large. There were present some of the most clever orators that have ever spoke, and I had the honour after about two sentences of breaking smash down, stopping in the middle of a sentence and owning I could not continue, and sitting down in the chair which Mr. Spiers is occupying now, and which I shall, perhaps, be obliged to ask him to give up to me. However, the sun rose, the funds did not fall down, and people went about their business just about as usual. (Laughter.) Now, I got up to try again, and do my best. You want business rather than words, so I take it, unless you can get business clothed in such noble words as those of my friend Mr. Neate. I agree with him in the main — in most of the opinions which he uttered in addressing you — and in very many of those which he has expressed in to-night's address. I go with all my heart and soul for the adoption of the ballot (hear and cheers) — and I desire with the utmost of my power the extension of the suffrage. (Cheers.) I do not say for one moment I mean universal suffrage because those of you who have read the papers have seen how universal suffrage obtains in the neighbouring country of France, the Emperor riding cockhorse over the whole country — (laughter) — the press throttled truly and entirely, and one tyrant ruling over the people. With respect to triennial parliaments, if the people are for it I am ready to follow the popular behest. I do not see for my own part how any great good can arise from them. It does not seem to me that if a perpetually recurring system of election was practised it would be conducive of much good. Some time ago I had to say a few words about political matters at a dinner in Edinburgh,⁸ to which I was invited, and I got a good deal of illwill in certain very genteel quarters in London when I returned because I said at that dinner that those gentlemen with handles to their names, that the members of great aristocratic families had a very great share of public patronage and government, and that for my part, I heartily desired that men of the people — the working men and educated men of the people — should have a share in the government. I instanced the case of the American Minister who was then wanting — the government had appointed a lord; a minister of China was then wanting, and the selection lay between a Duke and an Earl. Great outcries were made against me when I went back, and people said why do you sneer against Duke A., Lord B., and Earl C.? Why do you speak against men whom you know to be perfectly honourable and able. I did not sneer in the least against Lord Elgin who was appointed ambassador to China, or Lord Napier the

⁸ See above, No. 1479.

recently appointed American minister, because at that time few men more honourable, eloquent, able, or experienced could be found. What I complained of was that we are obliged to go to the aristocracy when we were in need of officers. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) There is never any chance for a man of the people to step forward — there seems a sort of absolute necessity that when Lord Palmerston goes out of office Lord John must come in, and when Lord John jumps out of the boat Lord Palmerston must come in and pull stroke oar again. (Laughter and cheers.) Are there not prudent intelligent men whose services the country might profit by but who have no chance to gratify the legitimate object of their ambition, so that an eternal change of the great aristocratic families seems intended to go on for ever? Will it be your will and pleasure that this state of things should continue? (Loud cries of No, no.) If so introduce into the House of Commons men of popular intelligence — the best men that you can bring into it. The popular influence must be brought to bear on the present government of the country, if they flinch remind them that the people is outside and wants more and more. Hold them to the promise given, as a special reform promise next year; if they do not give a sufficient measure, let us screw them and screw them till we get a larger measure. I little doubt as I look to the progress, the general daily progress the people are making, the reforms we desire will more and more satisfactorily be carried into execution. Every day the popular cause will advance, will receive interest and advantage. Mr. Thackeray then proceeded to remark that if on a future occasion he should have the honour of appearing before them, he would explain at large on all public questions which might interest individual electors. He could not hope to please all of course, but he hoped they would understand that as a working man who for 25 years has been labouring not unsuccessfully in his vocation, who has reached that point which must be the ambition of every Englishman who is able to say he is independent — independent of ministers or anybody — (hear hear, and cheers) — he came before them relying at least on his honesty, believing that possibly they might know what his literary career has been, and trusting to their favour the character which he may have obtained from them, and the benefit of a further acquaintance, for obtaining a still further hearing from them. In conclusion he returned his warmest thanks to Mr. Neate for having introduced him to them, and to those present for the patient hearing they had given him. (Much cheering.)

III.

Address at the Hustings,⁹ July 20.

As I came down to this place, I saw on each side of me placards announcing that there was no manner of doubt that on Tuesday the friends of the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell would elect him to a seat in Parliament. I also saw other placards announcing in similar terms a confidence that there was no doubt that I should be elected to a seat in Parliament for the City of Oxford. Now as both sides are perfectly confident of success — as I for my part, feel perfectly confident, and as my opponents entertain the same favourable opinion in regard to themselves — surely both sides may meet here in perfect good-humour. I hear that not long since — in the memory of many now alive — this independent city was patronized by a great university, and that a great duke, who lived not very far from here, at the time of election used to put on his boots and ride down and order the freemen of Oxford to elect a member for him. Any man who has wandered through your beautiful city as I have done within these last few days cannot but be struck with the difference between the ancient splendour, the academic grandeur that prevailed in this place — the processions of dons, doctors, and proctors — and your new city, which is not picturesque or beautiful at all, but which contains a number of streets, peopled by thousands of hard-working, honest, rough-handed men. These men have grown up of late years, and have asserted their determination to have a representative of their own. Such a representative they found three months ago, and such a representative they returned to Parliament in the person of my friend, Mr. Neate. But such a representative was turned out of that Parliament by a sentence which I cannot call unjust, because he himself is too magnanimous and generous to say so, but which I will call iniquitous. He was found guilty of a twopennyworth of bribery which he had never committed; and a Parliament which has swallowed so many camels, strained at that little gnat, and my friend, your representative, the very best man you could find to represent you was turned back, and you were left without a man. I cannot hope — I never thought to equal him; I only came forward at a moment when I felt it necessary that some one professing his principles, and possessing your confidence, should be ready to step into the gap which he had made. I know that the place was very eagerly sought for by other folks on the other side, entertaining other opinions. Perhaps you don't know that last week there was a Tory baronet down here, walking about in the shade, as umbrageous almost as that under which my opponent, Mr. Cardwell, has sheltered himself.

⁹ My text is taken from Hotten's *Thackeray*, pp. 148-152.

Of course you know there came down a ministerial nominee — Lord Monck; but you do not know that Mr. Hayter, who is what is called the Whipper-in for the Ministerial party, came down here also on Saturday week in a dark and mysterious manner, and that some conversation took place, the nature of which I cannot pretend to know anything about, because I have no spies, however people may be lurking at the doors of our committee-room. But the result of all was, that Lord Monck disappeared, and Mr. Hayter vanished into darkness and became a myth; and we were informed that a powerful requisition from the City of Oxford had invited Mr. Cardwell. Mind, Mr. Cardwell has given no note in reply — no mark, no sign. We do not know, even now, whether he accepted that polite invitation; we do not know it even to this day, except that his godfathers have been here and said so. After the manner in which the electors of Oxford have received me, could I possibly have gone back simply because we are told that Mr. Cardwell had received an invitation, which we did not know whether he had or accepted or not? I feel it, therefore, to be my humble duty to stand in the place where I found myself. I do not know that I would have ventured to oppose Mr. Cardwell under other circumstances. I am fully aware of his talents. I know his ability as a statesman, and no man can say that I have, during the whole of my canvass, uttered a word at all unfriendly or disrespectful towards that gentleman. I should have hesitated on any other occasion in opposing him, but I cannot hesitate now, because I know that we have the better cause, and that we mean to make that better cause triumphant. . . . Any man who belongs to the Peelite party is not the man who ought to be put forward by any constituency at the eve of a great and momentous English war. As to my own opinions on public questions, you may have heard them pretty freely expressed on many occasions. I only hope if you elect me to Parliament, I shall be able to obviate the little difficulty that has been placarded against me — that I could not speak. I own I cannot speak very well, but I shall learn. I cannot spin out glib sentences by the yard, as some people can; but if I have got anything in my mind, if I feel strongly on any question, I have I believe got brains enough to express it. When you send a man to the House of Commons, you do not want him to be always talking; he goes there to conduct the business of the country; he has to prepare himself on the question on which he proposes to speak before six hundred and fifty-six members, who would be bored if every man were to deliver his opinion. He must feel and understand what he is going to say, and I have not the least doubt that I shall be able to say what I feel and think, if you will give me the chance of saying it. If any one in the House of Commons talked all he thought upon everything, good God! what a Babel it would be!

You would not get on at all. On the first night I came among you, many questions were put to me by a friend, who capped them all by saying, 'Now, Mr. Thackeray, are you for the honour of England?' I said that that was rather a wild and a wide question to put, but to the best of my belief I was for the honour of England, and would work for it to the best of my power. About the ballot we are all agreed. If I was for the ballot before I came down here, I am more for the ballot now. As to triennial Parliaments, if the constituents desire them, I am for them.

IV.

Address after the Declaration of the Poll,¹⁰ July 21.

Give me leave to speak a few words to you on this occasion, for although the red, white and blue are my friends, I hope to make the green and yellow my friends also. Let me tell you a little story, but a true one. Some years ago, when boxing was more common in this country than it is at the present time, two celebrated champions met to fight a battle on Moulsey Heath. Their names were Gully and Gregson. They fought the most tremendous battle that had been known for many long years, and Gregson got the worst of it. As he was lying on his bed some time afterwards, blinded and his eyes closed up, he asked a friend to give him something to drink. A person in the room handed him some drink and grasped him by the hand. 'Whose hand is this?' asked Gregson. ''Tis Jack Gully's,' was the reply. Now Gregson was the man who was beaten and Gully was the conqueror, and he was the first man to shake him by the hand, to show him that he had no animosity against him. This should be the conduct of all loyal Englishmen, to fight a good fight, and to hold no animosity against the opposite side. With this feeling I go away from Oxford. With this feeling I shall have redeemed one of the promises I made you yesterday; the other I cannot by any possibility answer, because, somehow or other, our side has come out a little below the other side. I wish to shake Mr. Cardwell by the hand, and to congratulate him on being the representative of this great city. I say it is a victory you ought to be proud of; it is a battle which you ought to be proud of who have taken part in it; you have done your duty nobly and fought most gallantly. I am a man who was unknown to most of you, who only came before you with the recommendation of my noble and excellent friend Mr. Neate, but I have met with many friends. You have fought the battle gallantly against great influences, against an immense strength which have been brought against you, and in favour of that honoured and respected man, Mr. Cardwell. (Hisses.) Stop, don't hiss. When Lord Monck came down here and addressed the

¹⁰ My text is taken from Hotten's *Thackeray*, pp. 153-156.

electors, he was good enough to say a kind word in favour of me. Now, that being the case, don't let me be outdone in courtesy and generosity, but allow me to say a few words of the respect and cordiality which I entertain for Mr. Cardwell. As for the party battle which divides you, I am, gentlemen, a stranger, for I never heard the name of certain tradesmen of this city till I came among you. Perhaps I thought my name was better known than it is. You, the electors of Oxford, know whether I have acted honestly towards you; and you on the other side will say whether I ever solicited a vote when I knew that vote was promised to my opponent; or whether I have not always said — 'Sir, keep your word; here is my hand on it, let us part good friends.' With my opponents I part so. With others, my friends, I part with feelings still more friendly, not only for the fidelity you have shown towards me, but for your noble attachment to the gallant and tried whom you did know, and who I hope will be your representative at some future time. (Cry of bribery.) Don't cry out bribery; if you know of it, prove it; but as I am innocent of bribery myself, I do not choose to fancy that other men are not equally loyal and honest. It matters very little whether I am in the House of Commons or not, to prate a little more; but you have shown a great spirit, a great resolution, and great independence; and I trust at some future day, when you know me better than you do now, you will be able to carry your cause to a more successful issue. Before I came to Oxford, I knew that there was a certain question that would go against me, and which I would not blink to be made a duke or a marquis tomorrow. In March last, when I was at a dinner at Edinburgh, some friend[s] of mine asked me to stand for the representation of their city. My answer was this — 'That I was for having the people amused after they had done their worship on a Sunday.' I knew that I was speaking to a people who, of all others, were the most open to scruples on that point, but I did my duty as an honest man, and stated what my opinion was. I have done my duty honestly to this city, and I believe that this is the reason why I am placed in a minority; but I am contented to bow to that decision. I told you that I was for allowing a man to have harmless pleasures when he had done his worship on Sundays. I expected to have a hiss, but they have taken a more dangerous shape — the shape of slander. Those gentlemen who will take the trouble to read my books — and I should be glad to have as many of you for subscribers as will come forward — will be able to say whether there is anything in them that should not be read by any one's children, or by my own, or by any Christian man. I say, on this ground I will retire, and take my place with my pen and ink at my desk, and leave to Mr. Cardwell a business which I am sure he understands better than I do.

APPENDIX XX

DIARY 3 JANUARY-23 SEPTEMBER 1858

Hitherto unpublished. Original owned by Mrs. Fuller.

January	3	Spasms — beginning at 3. a. m
	4	not relieved until 4 p. m.
	5	Hamley
	9	C. Baron ¹
	14	Forster ²
	15	Roberts 7.
	21	Home.
	26	Lecture.
	27	Ld Cork. ³ 7.30
	29	Merivale. 7.
	30	Bidwell

¹ Sir Frederick Pollock.

² Thackeray also dined with Forster on January 6, when their common friend Whitwell Elwin was a guest. "He did not know [Thackeray] was to be there, and on seeing him in the room, he exclaimed, and ran up to greet him before he had spoken to Mrs. Forster. Forster remonstrated, and said it was not like him to do it. 'Oh! yes, it is,' said Thackeray, and then turning to him added, 'Never mind, I forgive you.' At dinner Elwin told Thackeray that his best poem was that on his pen. 'I cannot give you the pen with which I wrote it,' Thackeray replied, 'for I let it fall at Naples, and broke it, but I will give you the pencil-case.' Thereupon he took a silver pencil-case, with a gold pen, from his pocket, and put it into Elwin's hands. It was the pencil-case which the novelist had used for years, and it was the pen with which he had written many of his works. Elwin was so rapturous over the gift that Forster declared indignantly he would never invite him and Thackeray together again. The pen was treasured at Booton for the rest of Elwin's life as his most valued possession.

"After the dinner at Forster's Thackeray and Elwin left together. On their way home Thackeray talked of the Virginians, which was then in its early stages. He said he meant to bring in Goldsmith, — 'representing him as he really was, a little, shabby, mean, shuffling Irishman,' — Garrick — whose laugh he was positive he should be able to identify from the look in his portrait — Dr. Johnson, and the other celebrities of the reign of Queen Anne. He thought that he should find this easy, but he afterwards told Elwin that he had discovered he could not do it. The failure of his design threw him out, and the second half of the novel dragged for lack of materials." (Elwin, *Some Eighteenth Century Men of Letters*, I, 168-187)

³ Richard Edmund St. Lawrence Boyle (1829-1904), ninth Earl of Cork and Orrery.

- February 1 L. Clanricarde.
 2 Lecture
 4 Sir W de Bathe.
 5 Spasms coming on very gradually after breakfast took
 12 grains Calomel. Acme about 2 p. m pretty severe
 for 24 hours when relief came gradually
 8 Lady Molesworth.
 9 Dean Trench.
 11 Sir B. Hawes 7.⁴ 3/4.
 16 Dean St Pauls.⁵
 18 Priaulx
 20 Spasms beginning at 6. p.m.
 23 Fladgate. M^{rs} Ford. T. M^{rs} Elliot
 24 Waddington.
- March 2 Eyre Arms Week Day Preachers.
 9 Macready at Sherborne
 11 x Lady Astley.⁶ M^{rs} Mansfield.
 13 x 6. 3/4 Bacon.
 19 Lady Molesworth
 20 Lord Stanley of Alderley.
 22 M^r Harcourt.
 29 Theatrical Fund.
- April 9 Merivale 7.
 10 11 Deans yard 7.30.
 11 Baron L. Rothschild
 13 G. Smith 7.
 14 Sturgis.
 18 Do.
 20 Eyre Arms. George III.
 21 Lady Waldegrave. Mem. Sir R Murchinson 7 16 Bel-
 grave Sq^e Lady Derby.⁸
 22 L^d Stanley.
 23 Garrick Spasms coming on at night.

⁴ Sir Benjamin Hawes, see above, No. 1640.

⁵ Dean Milman.

⁶ The former Emma Lethbridge (d. 1872), who had married Sir Francis Dugdale Astley (1805-1873), second Baronet, in 1826.

⁷ Sir Roderick Impey Murchison (1792-1871), later (1866) first Baronet, a distinguished geologist.

⁸ The former Emma Caroline Bootle-Wilbraham (1805-1876) had in 1825 married the fourteenth Earl of Derby, who was thrice conservative Prime Minister.

- 24 {Bishop of London}.⁹ not relieved till late in afternoon.
 25 Heath.
 26 Home.
 27 Th. Martin.
 29 Bates.¹⁰
 30 E. Ellice.
- May 1 R Academy.
 4 Higgins 7.45 More spasms beginning about 9 and
 5 {L. Fund.} lasting till 11 night.
 6 {Rothschild} People at home. M^{rs} Phelps & M^{rs} Owen
 Americans. General. Lady Eliz. Selina Thackeray
 Meriwether very good fun. Friday that is
 8 Went with girls to Windsor. Stough. Reading. Henley.
 pleasant trip but cost 4£
 9 Home. F. Elliot. Synge. Dickens. Maclise. Landseer
 L^d Broughton. L^d Stanley. Tourgueneff¹¹
 12 declined Miss Thackeray.
 13 Priaulx. 7
 14 declined Dillon. M. Thackeray. O. Clayton.
 17 Mackintosh¹² 7.30 2 Hyde P^k Terrace K. Gate
 18 L^d Londonderry.
 22 K. Macaulay
 26 declined Sir W. Clay.¹³
- June 3 2 Knights 2 Forsters 2 Ardens.¹⁴ 2 Denmans 2 Black-
 woods. Motley. Phinn. Maurice.
 7 4 Fishes.¹⁵ 3 Selves, 2 Moffatts.¹⁶ 2 Sartoris. 2 Halle

⁹ Archibald Campbell Tait (1811-1882), who was Bishop of London from 1856 until 1868, when he became Archbishop of Canterbury.

¹⁰ Joshua Bates (1788-1864), an American merchant who became a partner in Baring Brothers in 1826.

¹¹ Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883), the Russian novelist, who, Thackeray told Henry Sutherland Edwards (*Personal Recollections*, p. 37), "had called upon him without any introduction, simply in the character of a foreign admirer of his works, and without saying a word about his own literary position."

¹² Robert James Mackintosh, who was still living at 2 Hyde Park Terrace in 1862 (*Post Office London Directory*).

¹³ Sir William Clay (1791-1869), first Baronet, M. P. for Tower Hamlets from 1832 to 1857.

¹⁴ Joseph Arden (1799-1879), who had become Principal of Cliffords Inn in 1855.

¹⁵ For Fish's impressions of this dinner, see Allan Nevins, *Hamilton Fish* (New York, 1936), p. 70.

¹⁶ George Moffat (1810-1878), a wealthy wholesale tea-dealer who was in parliament without interruption from 1845 to 1868. He had married Lucy Morrison in 1856.

- 2 Wilson. Meriwether. Ainsworth, Elliot, Trench, Swinton.
- 9 Gordon.¹⁷ Greenwich 6.
- 11 Lady Harding.¹⁸ Cockburn. Halle. M^r & Miss Belli
- 14 Venables. Brunswick Blackwall 6. 3/4
- 15 Waddington 7.30.
- 16 Stationers Compy 6 1/2
- 20 Trafalgar. 2 Proctors. M^{rs} Baird, Sir W de Bathe.
2 Taylors. Cayley. Mansfield.
- 24 Spasms at 6 in the morning relieved at night
Moffatt 7.30.
- 25 but leaving me in cold sweat almost shiver
- 26 and very languid next day.
- July 12. From home to Pavilion Hotel Folkestone
13. Dover. Calais. Ghent. Hotel Royal.
- 14 Cologne. Rolandseck.
- 15 Up Rhine to Biberich. Melancholy Nassau's garden.
- 16 To Heidelberg Hotel Schrieder
17. Wolfsbrunn in the evening
- 18 ditto. Wrote beginning of XI.¹⁹
- 22 T^h Wrote XI. drive at evening
- 23 F. to Berne. Faucon. Sent 2 Chap XI to England
Tuesday from Berne to Lucerne, having felt for 2 or
3 days great drowsiness languor low spirits violent cold
& oppression of chest Worked in spite.
Wednesday Thursday ill. slight spasms beginning
on Tuesday night took 10 grains did not operate till
Thursday after I had called in Doctor. Salivated by
10 grs. more. Faneon at Berne very comfortable but
bill 2£ per day.
- August 3 From Lucerne to Olten. Bill at Lucerne rather more
than 2£ per day. Bill at dirty Olten 38 francs with
1 dinner.
- 4 To Zurich Hotel Banc au Lac. much better in health.
excellent hotel. No 31 room.
- 5 Finished No XI, and sent off to London.

¹⁷ No doubt Sir Alexander Duff-Gordon.

¹⁸ The former Lady Emily Jane Stewart (1789-1865), wife of Viscount Hardinge of Lahore.

¹⁹ Chapters 41 to 44 of *The Virginians*, published for September.

- 8 From Schaffhausen over the lake of Constance to Friedrichshafen. 6.30-1. To Augsburg 2.40.8 3 Mohren.
 - 9 To Munich 4 Saisons.
 - 10 Saw Picture Galleries. Bavaria — Drove round the town at night. Cobham. Prall Essex St²⁰
 - 11 Palace — delightful old rooms — brilliant Ancestor-Hall dreary Nibelungen.
 - 12 Awake at 12 in order to be able to get up at 4 — to Stuttgart. pretty little kindly town. drive to Schlossgarten Cannstat.
 - 13 To Frankfurt. Hotel d'Angleterre
 14. To Cologne. Disch.
 - 15 Cathedral in the morning — to sleep at Ghent. Hotel Royal.
 - 16 To Bruges in the middle of the day, & then to Ostende whence a capital passage to Dover & the Ship.
 - 17 Home. Laus Deo. Dine with Fladgate at the Reform Club.²¹
 - 20 Spasms on Friday about 6. p.m.
 21. lasting till 2 p.m. when relieved, but I think without medicine; for that w^h Douglas gave me would not stay 10 minutes in the stomach.
- September
- 9 Slight spasms at 7 o'clock
 - 10 Sickness all day, but relieved
 - 13 From Folkestone to Paris H. du Louvre
 - 16 Hotel Bristol. Wrote XII²² in these days.
 - 22 Spasms in the morning lasting 4 or 5 hours not severe. sickness all day & part of next day.
 - 23 no medicine.

²⁰ Richard Prall lived at 19 Essex Street, Strand, in 1862 (*Post Office London Directory*).

²¹ On August 21 Dickens wrote to Yates: "I re-open this to tell you that I encountered Thackeray and Fladgate on the steps of the Reform Club. We spoke as if nothing had happened, — except that Fladgate's eyebrows went up into the crown of his hat, and he twisted himself into extraordinary forms." (*Letters*, ed. Dexter, III, 41)

²² Chapters 45 to 48 of *The Virginians* for October.

APPENDIX XXI

DIARY FOR 1861

Hitherto unpublished. Original owned by Mrs. Fuller.

W. M. Thackeray. 36 Onslow Sq^{re} S.W.

- | | | |
|----------|----|---|
| January | 1 | 12.5 M ^r Thackeray out |
| | 2 | 12.30. |
| | 17 | Sickness &c beginning at 6 as usual, relieved at 4, but renewed on Friday in consequence of repetition of medicine. |
| | 26 | New firm of Robarts & Lubbock ¹ very civil gave me discount & lunch called at Mansion House. ² Champagne tasting dinner at the G. No work done. |
| | 29 | M ^r Hollond |
| | 31 | L ^d Mayor 6.30 precisely. |
| February | 1 | 2 FitzRoys 2 Troubridges ³ 1 Oliffes. Bigge. L ^d Tenterden. Major Ramsay. 2 Hattons. |
| | 2 | L ^d J. Russell. |
| | 7 | Sickness beginning at 6. a.m. not relieved till Friday. |
| | 11 | M ^{rs} Bayne |
| | 14 | Unwell all Wednesday with sensation of sickness occasioned by repetition of pills on Tuesday night — dined at Willis's sate till 2 — obliged to go to bed on Thursday afternoon sent for Elliotson who arrived on Friday at 1 1/2 relieved on Friday. |
| | 22 | M ^r Robarts. ⁴ |
| | 26 | C. Justice. ⁵ |
| | 27 | L ^d Stanley of Alderley. 7 3/4. |

¹ Robarts, Lubbock, and Company, bankers, of 11 Mansion House Street, had replaced the firm of Lubbock, Forster, and Company, with which Thackeray was accustomed to do business (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

² To see his friend William Cubitt, Lord Mayor of London.

³ Colonel Sir Thomas St. Vincent Hope Cochrane Troubridge (1815-1867), third Baronet, who had fought in the West Indies, Canada, and the Crimea, losing his right leg and left foot at Inkerman. He married Louisa Jane Gurney (d. 1867) in 1855.

⁴ Abraham John Robarts, the head of Robarts, Lubbock, and Company.

⁵ Sir Alexander James Edmund Cockburn (1802-1880), tenth Baronet, Lord Chief Justice of England.

- 28 L de Chatret du Rieux of Levourne draws for 268 fr.
7s. Commissioner Rangel Woollett & Co.⁶
- March 1 2 Higgins 2 Marochetti 3 Edens. Ebers. Venables Lady
Eastlake. Van de Weyer.⁷ Sir W. Fraser.⁸ 3 Selves.
- 2 L^d Airlie.
- 5 M^r Robarts declined Spasms beginning after dinner on
Tuesday
- 7 and with partial relief on Wednesday, continued till
Thursday ev^g
- 8 Ellison. Ship & Turtle
Lady Stanhope
Lady Lyell⁹
- 12 Loch 7.30
- 14 Master of the Rolls.¹⁰
- 18 Lady Olliffe.
- 20 Chatret de Rieux of Levourne will draw for 90 francs.
Lord Mayor.
- 21 Milnes. 7.30
- 25 Bacon, Arden Taylor 2 Fladgates, Bence Jones.¹¹
Shawe. G. Russell. St John Thackeray.
- 27 Delane
- 28 W. Fladgate.
- 30 Bence Jones. 7
- April 3 M^{rs} Ford
- 4 Cold fit (without actual shivers not fit &c) and sleep
almost all day
- 5 On titles. (Magazines, novels &c) Streatham. (M^{rs}
Thrale, Thrale. Johnson) on bread & butter.
Joseph Gillott's patent 225.¹²
- 6 Stirling 7.30

⁶ Indian agents and shipbrokers of 1 Lime Street (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

⁷ Sylvain Van de Weyer (1802-1874), Belgian Envoy from 1831 to 1867.

⁸ See above, No. 754, note 44.

⁹ The former Mary Elizabeth Horner, wife of Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875), later (1864) first Baronet, who was famous for his *Principles of Geology* (1830-1833).

¹⁰ Thackeray's friend Sir John Romilly was Master of the Rolls from 1851 to 1873.

¹¹ Dr. Henry Bence Jones (1813-1873), F. R. S., physician to St. George's Hospital from 1846 to 1862.

¹² A kind of pen; Gillott was steel pen manufacturer to the Queen (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

- 10 L. F.¹³ D^r Jones.
 26 2 Stanleys, 2 Prinseps, 2 Caufields, 2 Curzons,¹⁴
 Landseer. Osborne, Low, Buckle. 3 Selves, 2 Leslie.
 May 4 Royal Academy
 5 Syngé, 3 Folletts, 2 Collins, Comyn, 4 Selves, Craigie,¹⁵
 Miss Russell, Trollope,
 6 R. A. Club Greenwich
 7 D^r Wynter proposes on Forbes Winslow¹⁶ & submarine
 cables.
 10 M^r Dickson¹⁷ 28 Upper Brook St 7 3/4
 11 Stirling
 13 Taylor Albion.
 15 L. F.
 16 Holland.
 22 Waddington 7. 3/4.
 29 40 Grosvenor St.¹⁸
 30 1815 European Magazine. 471. 'At Brighton in the
 89th year of her age that celebrated character Martha
 Gunn.'
 31 Promise to make a payment to J & G.¹⁹
 June 1 103 Eaton Sq²⁰
 6 Declined Marybone Institution dinner Sickness &
 spasms partially relieved on Friday.²¹

¹³ The annual dinner of the Royal Literary Fund.

¹⁴ Thackeray's friend Robert Curzon had married Emily Julia Horton (d. 1866) in 1850.

¹⁵ John Livingstone Craigie, F. R. C. S. (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

¹⁶ Wynter evidently wished to write an article for *The Cornhill Magazine* on Dr. Forbes Benignus Winslow (1810-1874), editor of *The Quarterly Journal of Psychological Medicine* and a distinguished specialist in insanity.

¹⁷ Peter Dickson, F. R. G. S., lived at 28 Upper Brook Street (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

¹⁸ Miss Wyatt Edgell lived at 40 Grosvenor Street in 1862 (*Post Office London Directory*).

¹⁹ Jackson and Graham, contractors for Thackeray's house at 2, Palace Green, Kensington.

²⁰ Where lived George Moffatt.

²¹ "Yesterday I spent a pleasant afternoon with Thackeray," John Blackwood wrote to his wife on June 4, 1861. "He carried me off bodily to see the new house he is building in Kensington Gardens. It is very nice indeed, and I have named it the Palazzo Thackeray. It is very pleasant to see old Thack., as delighted as a child, showing me all over it. He wishes me to rollick down to Greenwich with him, he having declined four other invitations on the plea of illness. I was going to dine at Warren's, but he made an appointment to dine with me at the Rag, or Greenwich, and doubtless the fun will be great." And on the following day Blackwood wrote that Thackeray's dinner was given at the Blue Posts, where

- 7 Belli 7.30.
 10 J Coningham at Ascot.
 12 Bacon.
 18 Sickness & spasms relieved at night without medicine
 Took some at night.
- July 4 4 p.m. Donne.²² 40 Weymouth St
 18 Sickness began on Wed^y ev^e relieved with podoph. on
 Thursday ev^e
- August 15 After taking compound colocynth followed attack of
 cold, hot fit, & perspiration.
 27 Sonty. R du Louvre 8 frames and glasses. M^{rs} Russell.
 Arran Lodge. St John's Wood. Grove End Road.
 29 Sickness and spasms accompanied with diarrhoea this
 time beginning in the morning, and lasting until Satur-
 day. Took no medicine at all but the languor remained
 over Sunday. Inserted by mistake. the attack was on
 Thursday Sep^r 5.
- September 9 † On this day, as I was returning from Paris, my dear
 old G P died at Ayr in Scotland after only a few hour's
 illness.
 18 More sickness &c. commenced on Tuesday ev^e relieved
 on Wednesday Thursday by Citrate of Magnesia only.
- October 1 T. Hood 43 Grove Place Brompton.
 J. Payn ²³ 11 Gloster Crescent Hyde Park.
 F. Michel 38 Bloomsbury St^t
 10 Brunel 27 Margaret St.
 15 Call of 100 on Universal Marine.
 24 Pay M^{rs} Bakewell.
 26 M^r Corkran
- November 16 Sickness beginning 9 a.m. took no medicine till Sunday
 beginning with a calming p. and then colocynth

he seemed "a sort of king, and we got a dinner and wines such as I never saw in the house before. The fun was undeniable, and in the passages between Hamley and Thack. there was much greater cordiality than formerly." (Mrs. Porter, *John Blackwood*, p. 64)

²² Fitzgerald's friend William Bodham Donne was living at 40 Weymouth Street (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

²³ James Payn (1830-1898), a novelist and miscellaneous writer who edited *The Cornhill Magazine* from 1883 to 1896.

APPENDIX XXII

DIARY FOR 1862

Hitherto unpublished. Original owned by Mrs. Fuller.

- January 10 Leech
 24 Haringtons. Sterling. Phinn.¹ 2 Sandwiths Taylor 2
 Caulfeild
- February 11 Sickness & spasms lasting 2 days.
 12 Sir C Russell.² 7
 13 Sir J Harington.
 17 A quiet morning's work. Chimney sweep. Ball party.
 Angry contributor. Unhappy do. Coachman & Van
 24 Play 8.
 25 Play
- March 4 36 O. Sq^e A

- My dear S. I have been thinking over our conversation of yesterday and it has not improved the gaiety of the work on w^h I am presently busy. Today I have taken my friend Sir Charles Taylor into my confidence, & his opinion coincides with mine that I should withdraw from the Magazine. To go into by-gones now is needless. Before ever the Magazine appeared, I was, as I have told you on the point of writing such a letter as this. And whether connected with the C H M or not I hope I shall always be Sincerely your friend W. M. T.³
- 6 To Smith. My dear S. I daresay your night, like mine, has been a little disturbed, but *Philip* presses, & until this matter is over, I can't make that story so amusing as I could wish.

I had this pocket pistol (A) in my breast yesterday but hesitated to pull the trigger at an old friend. My daughters are for a compromise. They say 'it is all very fine Sir C. Taylor telling you to do so & so M^r

¹ Thomas Phinn (1814-1866), a barrister and politician who in 1854 had become a Q. C. and bencher of the Inner Temple.

² Sir Charles Russell (1826-1883), later M. P. for Berkshire and Westminster and a Lt.-Col. in the Grenadier Guards.

³ The drafts of this and the following letter that Thackeray sent are printed above, Nos. 1532 and 1533.

Smith has proved himself your friend always' Bien. It is because I wish him to remain so that I & the Magazine had better part company Goodbye & God bless you & all yours. W M T.

- 11 Wrote 2 pages in the New House for the first time.
 25 Coningham. 7.30
 31 Came to Kensington.
- April 11 Miss Cottin.
 18 The May number ⁴ not finished till today, after repeated stomach derangements, sickness, ague, fever &c.
 26 Ill at Paris on these days. Chipmell finds M. B.⁵
 28 L. Mayor ⁶ 6.3/4.
- May 3 R. Academy
 7 Sir J. O.⁷
 8 F. Grant.⁸ 87 3/4 27 Sussex Place Regents P^k
 9 M^r Dickinson
 11 Trollope at Star & Garter
 13 At Bankers 4640. Paid Graham 1000£ Synge 600£
 15 L. F.⁹ Gordon Halyburton. M^{rs} Pollock. Synge agrees to make 9 half yearly payments of 100£ each beginning from October 1 and a 10th payment of 112.10 to close the transaction.¹⁰
- 16 W. Russell 2 Simeons. Bigge.
 G W Cooke.¹¹ Wolowski 2 Bulls ¹²
 Count Waldstein. Landseer. 4 Selves.

⁴ Chapters 35 and 36 of *Philip*.

⁶ William Cubitt was still Lord Mayor.

⁵ Perhaps Mrs. Beckwith.

⁷ Sir Joseph Olliffe.

⁸ Francis Grant (1803-1878), R. A., later (1866) knighted, lived at 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862). He was a painter of portraits and sporting scenes.

⁹ The annual dinner of the Royal Literary Fund.

¹⁰ See above, No. 1540.

¹¹ George Wingrove Cooke (1814-1865), barrister, legal writer, and *Times* correspondent. William Holman Hunt (*Pre-Raphaelitism and the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood*, II, 240) writes that Cooke, who was a very rapid writer, asked Thackeray in 1862 to join him in a party celebrating his return from abroad, but Thackeray refused on the ground that he had his month's work to finish. Returning from his party, Cooke passed by Thackeray's house where he found the lights still on in the novelist's study. "There was the writing-pad with some sheets of notepaper on the table, and the upper sheet had about twelve lines of his neatest small writing, with a blank space at the bottom. I held it up before Thackeray. 'Tell me,' I said, 'is this all that you have written this blessed evening?'"

"'Alas!' he replied quite sadly, 'that is all.'"

¹² Arthur Buller and his wife, who were living at 20 Queen's Gate Terrace at this time (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

- 17 Col. Challoner.¹³
 18 L^d Lansdowne.
 21 M^r Heywoods¹⁴
 22 James 7.30
 23 M^{rs} Senior¹⁵
 26 Lady Stanhope. London House.
 28 M^{rs} M. G. Lady Clay
 29 Garraways¹⁶ will send Port on Thursday m^s P G K
 May 30. Sir I propose thoroughly to paint and repair
 my house 36 O. S. B: and will be glad to have an esti-
 mate from you of the expense. But it must be under-
 stood that I do not pay anything for the survey and do
 not bind myself to accept your contract If you show
 this to the people in charge of the house they will let
 you see it.
 30 M^r Smetham. 33 Palace S^t Pimlico. refers to Jordan¹⁷
 Ebury S^t and Miss Blackman 4 Pembroke Cottages
 M^{rs} Senior
 Lady Eastlake.
 31 B. R.
 Chiswick House 3.7
 June 1 Tenison 54 Grosvenor S^t 8.
 2 M^r Macaulay.

¹³ Colonel Thomas Bisse Challenor, 11 Charles Street, Berkeley Square (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

¹⁴ James Heywood (1810-1897), a wealthy scholar living at 26 Kensington Palace Gardens (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

¹⁵ The wife of Nassau William Senior.

¹⁶ Garraway's Coffee House, 3 Change Alley. Thackeray was extensively acquainted with the contents of the cellars of obscure London inns. "I once brought a smile to his face," relates John Cordy Jeaffreson (*A Book of Recollections*, I, 288), "by telling him, that a Lincoln's Inn barrister, struck by seeing him on several occasions walking eastward in Holborn, when the barristers of the Inns were walking westward after work, from pure curiosity turned about on a certain afternoon, and tracking him to the Gray's Inn coffee-house, saw him dine there in the coffee-room without a companion.

"'Ah!' said Thackeray, with enjoyment of the story, and of the good wine which it recalled to his memory, 'that was when I was drinking the last of that wonderful bin of port. It was rare wine. There were only two dozen bottles and a few bottles over, when I came upon the remains of that bin, and I forthwith bargained with mine host to keep them for me. I drank every bottle and every drop of that remainder by myself. I shared never a bottle with living man; and so long as the wine lasted, I slipped off to the Gray's Inn coffee-house with all possible secrecy short of disguise, whenever I thought a dinner and a bottle by myself would do me good.'"

¹⁷ Henry Jordan, tailor, 60 Ebury Street (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

- 3 Lady Glasgow ¹⁸
Sir Roderick Murchison
- 4 Derby.
M^r Gladstone
- 5 R. Gurney ¹⁹ 7.30
Lady Harrington
- 6 M^{rs} Gardner M^{rs} Senior. M^{rs} Robarts
- 8 2 Martins. 2 Kennys. 2 Knightons. Goldsmid Murc.
2 Ellisons. Gautier. Wolowski
- 10 Dn of Westminster ²⁰ 7 1/2
M^{rs} Sartoris Home ch:
Lady Harding.
- 11 L^d Airlie. 1/4 Athenaeum
- 12 Lady Harrington
- 13 Lady Langdale ²¹ 10 Lowndes St 7. 3/4
M^{rs} Bayne
M^{rs} Senior
- 14 Dufferin Lodge.²²
- 16 J. Coningham at Bracknell for M. T. W.
- 17 Sir R Murchison
Home Ch:
- 18 M^r Bacon ²³ 7.30 1. K. G. Terrace
- 19 T. Martin.
Lady Harrington
- 20 M^{rs} Senior
Play
Paid Jackson & Graham 932.15.9
Making price of house 6433.
Chimney pieces 250
Grates &c Feetham 317 say (265.15.6)
7000
- 21 Moffat 7.45.

¹⁸ The dowager Countess of Glasgow (1796-1868), widow of the fourth Earl.

¹⁹ Russell Gurney (1804-1878), Recorder of the City of London from 1856 to 1878.

²⁰ Dean Trench.

²¹ The former Lady Jane Elizabeth Harley (1796-1872), daughter of the fifth Earl of Oxford and widow of the first Baron Langdale.

²² Dufferin Lodge, Fitzroy Park, Highgate, was the town house of the fifth Baron Dufferin and Clandeboyne.

²³ James Bacon (1798-1895), later (1871) knighted, was a Q. C. and bencher of Lincoln's Inn who afterwards became Vice-Chancellor.

- 22 For dinner for 18 people
 4 Sherry 20
 2 Sauterne 21 Wine for a
 4 Champagne 32 dinner for 18.
 1 old Sherry 10 about 8£
 1 Port 10
 4 Claret 40
 1 Brandy 1 Malaga 15 148/
 23 2 Blackwoods. Browning. V. Prinsep. 3 Thompsons. 2 Story Ellison Ormsby. 2 Monroes. Bunbury. Wynne. 3 Selves
 7000
 800 Jackson & Graham for painting & decoration
 (5 paid)
 200 Verity Gas fittings & lamps.
 8000
 24 Edwards. 57 Eaton Sq. 7.30
 M^{rs} Sartoris
 25 M^{rs} Bates. 7.30
 26 Mussy ²⁴ 7 1/2
 27 A. Buller 7.45
 M^{rs} Senior
 28 M^{rs} King 7 3/4
 Lady Dufferin
 Lady Shelley ²⁵
 29 2 Higgins 2 Seniors M^{me} Mohl. ²⁶ Fonblanque. 5 Selves
 Pichot.
 30 Bevan 6
 July 1 E. Curzon
 2 Lord Russell M^{rs} Lysley L^y Mildred Hope
 M^{rs} Wyndham.
 3 6.15 p. m. Finis Philippi
 Lady Harrington
 4 Orleans House. ²⁷
 5 Heatley. Fulham.

²⁴ Henri Guéneau de Mussy (1814-1892), physician to the Orleans family, who came to England with Louis Philippe in 1848 and built up a large London practice.

²⁵ Probably the former Louisa Elizabeth Knight (d. 1895), who had married Sir John Shelley, seventh Baronet, in 1832.

²⁶ The former Mary Elizabeth Clarke (1793-1883), who had married the orientalist Julius Mohl in 1847. The receptions that she held at her house in the Rue du Bac in Paris were popular for forty years.

²⁷ Where lived the Duc d'Aumale.

	6	Including J & G's extra bill	3062
		I make out that I have spent	2062 of capital
		Including loan to S.	900
		To L	200
		I owe my estate	1962
	7	H. Corry 71a Grosvenor St	M ^{rs} Prescott ²⁸
	8	on Wednesday. Evans, Lemon, Leech, Lucas, May-	
		hew, Brooks, Tenniel, Keene. Silver, ²⁹ Taylor, Ed-	
		wards. M ^{rs} Sartoris	
	10	Lady Harrington	
	18	Gallinot Dinner	
	19	Leech at Richmond.	
	24	M ^{rs} Sartoris	
August	8	23 Portland Place. Sale Chandeliers. Dresden	65
		Lowndes Sq. Round table	
	14	Canterbury	
September	10	3 days sickness at Folkestone	
	13	Home after Paris and Folkestone	GBAITH
	26	2 Whitmores. Watts. ³⁰ Col. Fladgate. M ^{rs} Cameron	
October	1	Synge's Dividend	
November	28	Christie's Q. Ann dish & Ewer	
December	1	Kensington Vestry 8. ³¹	
	10	Lucas	
	16	Sir E. Perry.	
	17	Phinn?	
	19	Delane	

²⁸ The wife of William George Prescott.

²⁹ Henry Silver, a contributor to *Punch* during the eighteen-fifties and eighteen-sixties, whose diary forms the basis of E. V. Lucas's "Thackeray at the Punch Table" (*Loiterer's Harvest*, New York, 1913, pp. 18-41).

³⁰ George Frederic Watts (1817-1904), the celebrated painter, who lived with Thackeray's friends the Prinseps at Little Holland House.

³¹ Thackeray's appointment with Archdeacon Sinclair was no doubt to make final arrangements for the wedding of Edward Thackeray and Amy Crowe, which took place on December 2. "So grieved was he at the thought of parting from [Miss Crowe]," writes John Guille Millais (*The Life and Letters of Sir John Everett Millais*, I, 276), "that on her wedding-day he came for consolation to my father's studio, and spent most of the afternoon in tears."

APPENDIX XXIII

NUMBER 2, PALACE GREEN, KENSINGTON

The following reckoning of Thackeray's assets and inventory of the furnishings of his last house at 2 Palace Green, Kensington, is here published for the first time from the early pages of his diary for 1862.

Study.

Italian Sofa & 6 chairs	30
3 Inlaid chairs	9
Louis XVI inlaid table	10
2 Easy chairs	4
Study table	10
Do	8
Do small	3
Looking Glasses	40
Prints & frames	6
Pictures	25
Jars	5
Candlesticks	5
Fender & Irons	1
Paper Case	4
Books	150
Chintz Sofa	1
Small do.	1
Lamp	10
Carpet	10
Clock	10

340

Drawing-Rooms

Chandeliers	40
Piano	40
Round table	10
Long do	10
Library do.	5
Bookcase and contents	100
Looking glasses	60
Sofas	5
Chairs	25

Drawings	50	
Curtains	10	
Carpets	20	
China	40	
Candlesticks	20	
Clock	40	
Watch	10	
		515

Hall

Glass	10	
China	10	
Pictures	20	
Marble Tables	30	70
Hat Stand &c.		

Dining Room

19 Chairs	35	
Table	10	
Small table	5	
Gold table	15	
Looking Glass	35	
Do	5	
Chandliers	15	
Turkey Carpets	30	
Sideboard	20	
Stand.	5	
		170

Morning Room.

China & Cupboard	40	
Pictures	25	
Glasses	20	
Chairs	10	
Tables	5	
Sofa	5	105

Annys Room.

China & Cupboard	60	
Pictures & Prints	10	
Cabinet	6	
Table	5	81

5 Best bed rooms & furniture	165	
2 Bath rooms	40	
5 Attics	100	
China & Glass (say)	100	
Plate (say)	200	
Wine (say)	400	2286
Onslow Sq ^e	2600	
Copyrights	4000	
Moneys owing (?)	1200	
Kensington	8014	
		18100 ¹

¹ On the page of Thackeray's 1862 diary opposite these final figures Lady Ritchie has added the following "Estimate with Mr Fladgate 25 Feby", which presumably dates from 1864:

	Min.	—	Max.
[Furnishings:]	2320		2500
[Onslow Sq.:]	say 2500	to	2600
[Copyrights:]	4000	—	6000
[Moneys owing:]	400		400
[Kensington:]	8000	—	10000
	17,200		21,500
	Say 20,000£.		

APPENDIX XXIV

DIARY FOR 1863

Hitherto unpublished. Original owned by Mrs. Fuller.

- | | | |
|----------|----|--|
| January | 3 | Praed ¹ 7.30 |
| | 4 | Leech 6.30 |
| | 5 | Home. 2 Leeches, 2 Leslie's, Ellison Goodlake 6 Selves |
| | 7 | M ^r Heath |
| | 9 | Fladgate |
| | 15 | Priaulx 7. |
| | 16 | Roberts |
| | 18 | 3 Selves, 2 Caulfields, 2 Cottins, 2 Edwards, Elliotson
Wyndham Smith, Leech, Sothorn, H. Merivale J ^r
Dillon 3 Sherry 3 Champ. 3 Claret 51. 1 Port |
| | 20 | Dyce ² 33 Oxford Terrace. 7 |
| | 21 | Phinn |
| | 25 | C C ³ 7. |
| | 26 | Mentmore |
| | 31 | 7 1/2 G S. |
| February | 2 | Waddington 7.30 |
| | 3 | 143 Regent St ^t 10.15 |
| | 4 | M ^{rs} Trollope. Arch ^d ⁴ Kerrich J ^r ⁵ 2 Denmans.
Metcalf. Merivale. Senior. 7.30
3 Claret 54 2 Champagne. 2 Sherry. |
| | 5 | M ^{rs} Ford. 7.45 |
| | 6 | Stephen ⁶ |
| | 14 | Mem. to send 5 for M ^{rs} Sleep. Sickness & Spasms not
severe for 2 days. |
| | 17 | Offer to see Miss Roberts Tuesday or Wednesday |

¹ Charles Tyringham Praed (1833-1895), a partner in Praed and Company, bankers.

² The Rev. Alexander Dyce (1798-1869), editor of Shakespeare, Beaumont and Fletcher, Middleton, Shirley, and other Elizabethan dramatists.

³ Probably Charles Collins.

⁴ Archdeacon Sinclair.

⁵ FitzGerald's nephew.

⁶ James Fitzjames Stephen.

- 18 30 N. Brook St⁷ 6.30
 19 M^{rs} Mansfield T.
 21 2 Collins 3 Fanshawes, Sterling, Buller, Ormsby,
 Percy⁸ 3 Selves
 24 L^d Russell 7 3/4
 25 Millais
- March 1 T. Taylor
 2 Heatly 8
 3 Reeve 7.30
 5 Mussy 7.30
 6 Sartoris.
 8 3 Selves J J. 2 Leeches. Gordon. 2 Colvilles.⁹ Phinn
 Stirling. Landseer. Hills. M^{rs} Ford. 3 Sherries 1 Old
 Sherry. 3 48 Claret. 3 Champagne. 1 Port. 1 ordinaire
 4. 6. 0
 9 Coulson¹⁰ 1 Chester Terrace R P.
 10 M. Temple¹¹
 11 Bryant 8.
 M^{rs} Sartoris's ball
 M^{rs} Gopits
 12 Priaulx 7.15
 13 Dutton 1/4 8
 16 Merivale 7.30
 Ford. I shall make a point of going W M T.
 17 D^r 1^t Beaumont
 21 Bageot¹² 7.30
 23 Sir James Colville 7.30
 24 Coningham 7.45. D^r Marg. Beaumont
 25 M. Thackeray. 7
 26 Ly Molesworth.
 27 D^r Bence Jones 6.30

⁷ Where was located the White Hart, an inn managed by Thomas John Pope (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

⁸ Dr. John Percy (1817-1889), an authority on metallurgy and a contributor to *The Times*, *The Athenaeum*, and *The Saturday Review*, who was, like Thackeray, a member of "Our Club".

⁹ Sir James William Colville (1810-1880), who returned to England in 1859 after a distinguished career as an Indian judge. He had married Frances Eleanor Grant in 1857.

¹⁰ William Coulson (1801-1877), Senior Surgeon of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, lived at 1 Chester Terrace (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

¹¹ A dinner at the Middle Temple.

¹² No doubt Walter Bagehot (1826-1877), the eminent economist and man-of-letters, who was the son-in-law of Thackeray's friend James Wilson.

	28	Wingrove Cook.	R. C.					
	29	2 Cayleys	2 Collins	Gregory Swinton				
		3 Claret	2 Champ.	2 Sherries	1 Port			
		21	14	8	7	£2	10	
	30	Fairbairn	23	Qs Gate				
April	2	Heath.						
	6	M ^r Milnes?						
	13	From Frystone to Hamsthwaite	Harrogate	York				
	14	To Lord Galway's	¹³ at Bawtry					
	16	Home.						
	17	Clayton	7.30					
	18	Col Stanley	¹⁴ 8					
	25	O. C. Shakespear dinner	¹⁵					
	26	2 Russells	2 Wilsons	2 Curzons	Doyle Twyford	¹⁶ 3		
		Selves	Taylor					

¹³ George Edward Arundell Monckton-Arundell (1805-1876), sixth Viscount Galway, who had married Henrietta Eliza Milnes (d. 1891), the sister of Thackeray's friend, in 1838. The Galways' country seat was Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Nottinghamshire.

¹⁴ Colonel John Stanley, a younger son of the Stanleys of Alderley.

¹⁵ Thackeray's last appearance at "Our Club" was to preside at this dinner, a burdensome duty rendered doubly disagreeable by the circumstances under which he spoke. In *The Athenæum* of April 25 had appeared a malicious review of his daughter's *Story of Elizabeth*. The novel is "undeniably clever", the critic admits (pp. 552-553), but it "turns on a subject which is, or ought to be, quite inadmissible for a novel: the antagonism of a mother and a daughter, both rivals for the love of the same man." Moreover, it "is told in a mocking, sarcastic spirit, which is very unpleasant, and which degrades all characters alike." Thackeray attributed this notice to John Cordy Jeaffreson, whom he found among those present at "Our Club". It is not surprising that in his speech on Shakespeare, as Jeaffreson (*A Book of Recollections*, I, 308) relates, "he spoke of the atmosphere of rivalry and contention which Shakespeare breathed, while he was doing his appointed work and making his imperishable fame,—of the tattlers who talked saucily about him from mere mental flimsiness, and of the malicious detractors who from spiteful jealousy magnified the defects, and disparaged the excellences of his writings and character. Observing how the tattlers and detractors were remembered only by the few persons who remembered them with contempt, and how all their ineffectual efforts to defame their great master had failed to influence the world's judgment, he remarked how tenderly time and fate had dealt with the poet, in causing him to be known to us only by his writings." After Thackeray had left "Our Club" early in the evening, he described Jeaffreson as "a man who, in order to give him pain, had slapped his daughter's face". Though the offending review of *The Story of Elizabeth* was written, on Jeaffreson's showing, by Geraldine Jewsbury (1812-1880), the novelist and friend of Mrs. Carlyle, Thackeray was not wrong in sensing a cabal against him among certain members of *The Athenæum's* staff. See Appendix XXV.

¹⁶ Augusta Small Twyford, 24 New Street, Spring Gardens (*Post Office London Directory*, 1862).

- 27 G. general meeting.
 28 St James's Theatre. Lady Audley's Secret ¹⁷ & Effie Deans.
 29 Sir J. Simeon
 Lady Rothschild.
 30 London House. 10 M^{rs} Halle.
 May 1 H. Wilson
 3 Leech at Richmond
 5 Norman.
 6 Archbishop of Y.¹⁸
 8 F. Chapman. G. 6.30
 10 Gordon 2 Cayleys 2 Trollopes. 2 Stephens 3 Selves.
 12 R Bell S.
 13 Colville 7. 3/4
 14 2 Troubridges. Col. Greathed ¹⁹ 2 Milnes 2 Lows.
 Heatly. Baring L^d Stanley. 3 Selves. Venables. 2 Thackerays. Ellison. Lady Cullum. 18.
 Breakfast with M^r Gladstone ²⁰ 10. 4 Champagne
 2.48 4.47
 1 Port 4 Sherry 1 Old Sherry. 28 3.3 8 16 10 = 6.5
 15 Arden. Cliffords Inn:
 Lady de Grey ²¹
 16 M^r J. Crow Horseferry Road Taxes 2.12.4
 19 Lady Taunton ²²
 20 M^{rs} Gladstone.
 21 Miss Thackeray. 7.30.
 22 M^r Gurney.
 24 Clarence.

¹⁷ A drama by George Roberts from the novel of the same name by Miss Bradon, first presented at St. James's Theatre on February 28, 1863. *Effie Deans, The Lily of St. Leonards* (1863) was adapted by Shepherd from *The Heart of Midlothian*.

¹⁸ Archbishop Thomson. See above, No. 1564.

¹⁹ Lt.-Col. Edward Harris Greathed (1812-1881), later (1865) K. C. B. and a General.

²⁰ The other guests at Gladstone's breakfast were the Duchess of Sutherland, the Bishop of Brechin, the Bishop of Montreal, Cobden, and "Mr. Evarts, the new U. S. coadjutor to Adams" (John Morley, *Life of William Ewart Gladstone*, 3 vols., London, 1903, II, 189).

²¹ The former Henrietta Ann Theodosia Vyner, who had married George Frederick Samuel Robinson (1827-1909), third Earl de Grey and later (1871) first Marquess of Ripon, in 1851.

²² The former Lady Mary Howard (d. 1892), daughter of the sixth Earl of Carlisle, who had married Henry Labouchere (1798-1869), first Baron Taunton, in 1852.

- 25 H. James 6 3/4
 28 2 Duttons. 2 Higgins. 2 Mussys. 2 Galways. 2 Johnsons. Swinton F. Elliot. 3 Selves. Clifford Bigge
 4 Cham. 4 Claret. 1 Port. 3 Sh. 1 O.S. 2 Claret 5. 12.0
 June 29 Lady Stanhope M^{rs} Halle. Lady Lyell
 1 Leech. Lady Lyell
 3 Sir T. Troubridge 7. 3/4. 8 Queen's Gate.
 5 M^r & M^{rs} James 7.30
 Lady Eastlake M^{rs} Gardner
 6 Lady Essex ²³
 9 Dined with girls at Star & Garter.
 10 Clifford. Trafalgar.
 15 Lady Troubridge M^r Roderick Murchison
 17 M^r Grant Duff.²⁴
 18 Bevan. M^r Pennethorne ²⁵ at 10.1/2 here
 19 M^r Walter ²⁶ 7.30
 M^r & Miss Donne
 20 M^r Merewether June 22.

Sir. A div^d of 100£ was due from S ²⁷ to me on the 1 April w^h was not paid. The quarters interest at 5 per cent is 1.2.6 the discount on w^h will be 1.2.6 on 1 July. By paying me 200£ now the interest & disc^t will balance each other.

A dividend will be due on 1 Ap. 64 from w^h take 9 months disc^t 3.15. A div^d on 1 October from w^h take 15 m^{ths} disc^t 6.2.6.

If you can give me a cheque for 400 minus 9.17.6 I shall be very glad to get it & not trouble S for some time to come

G. B. Gregory Esq

- 21 2 Knightons 3 Pollens M^{rs} Leech. Heywood. Hicks.
 3 Selves 2 Duffs. Clark 14.
 24 M^r Lysley ²⁸ M^r Walter 10.30 M^r Th: Hankey ²⁹

²³ Louisa Boyle (1833-1876), daughter of Viscount Dungarvan and granddaughter of the eighth Earl of Cork, who had married Arthur Algernon de Vere Capell (1803-1892), sixth Earl of Essex, three days earlier.

²⁴ Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff (1829-1906), later G. C. S. I., the politician and colonial administrator.

²⁵ James Pennethorne (1801-1871), later (1870) knighted, a well known architect. ²⁶ John Walter (1818-1894), proprietor of *The Times*. ²⁷ Synge.

²⁸ The wife of William John Lysley (1791-1873), barrister and M. P. for Chippenham from 1859 to 1865.

²⁹ Thomson Hankey (1805-1893), political economist and liberal M. P. for Peterborough from 1853 to 1868 and 1874 to 1880.

- 25 M^{rs} Longman
 26 Miss Thackeray M^{rs} Foley ³⁰ at 4
 27 M^{rs} Prescott Lady Pollock
 29 Orleans House. M^{rs} Kirkman Hodgson ³¹
- July 1 R. C. ³² 4 p.m.
 2 Harrow School
 3 Slight attack only lasting a day
 7 Moffatt. Tuesday. Wednesday.
 22 Evans, Leech, Lemon, Brooks, Keane, Tenniel, Taylor, Silver Becher, Self,
 26 Drove to Richmond to D^r Owen ³³ & M^r Heath. asked to dinner by Phinn, Owen, Heath.
 27 Fonblanque at 2. A slight attack of sickness at 5 am., went off and ate at 5 pm.
 29 Knighton. Blendworth. ³⁴ Horndean Waterloo to Rowlands Castle
- August 1 Sartoris.
 3 To Ryde.
 4 To London.
 7 Lubbocks loan
 16 Left home by L. C & D. slept at Dover L^d Warden. ³⁵
 17 To Calais. Quillacq.
 18 Brussels Hotel de Suede.
 20 To Dinan by Namur
 21 To Paris by Givet & Rheims. H des 2 Mondes. nice little apartment. 78.
 22 Hotel Cluny. Dine at Café Anglais. Theatre du Chatelet Secret de Miss Aurore. ³⁶
 23 Dine at Café Gaillon
 24 Bois de Boulogne. Dine at Hotel
 Excellent Drama of Sorciere at Amb. Com.

³⁰ Wife of the sculptor John Henry Foley.

³¹ The wife of Kirkman Daniel Hodgson (1814-1879), who had been Thackeray's schoolfellow at Charterhouse. Hodgson was a partner in Baring Brothers, a director of the Bank of England, and M. P. for Bridport from 1857 to 1868.

³² The Reform Club.

³³ Dr. Richard Owen (1804-1892), later (1884) K. C. B., the eminent naturalist.

³⁴ See above, No. 1569.

³⁵ Thackeray was friendly both with Lord Palmerston, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and the fifth Duke of Newcastle, Lord Warden of the Stanneries.

³⁶ A five act drama by Lambert Thiboust (1826-1867) and Bernard Derosne, first presented at the Théâtre du Châtelet in July, 1863.

- 25 Gaité Dreadfully stupid piece of *Peau d'Ane* ³⁷
 27 To Folkestone. Denibas's buggy hotel
 28 Home by 11.30
- September 21 Slight attack beginning 5 am. yielding to 9 gr. Colocynth in a few hours.
 24 2 Collins. Dyce. Schmidt. Smith 2 Taylor. 3. 47. 2 Sherry. 2 Champagne.
- October 14 2 Normans, Mc Gregor. 1 Hock. 1 Sherry 2 Latour.
 19 2 Lows 2 Troubridges. 2 Collins. Taylor. Russell 5 Selves. M. Irvine. G. Duff. 3 Claret (48. 51. 54)
 2 Taylor's Claret. 3 Sherry. 3 Champagne. 1 Brandy.
 4 0 0
 29 c.m.a.
- November 1 2 Heaths 2 Collins Hamstede ³⁸ Corbyn.
 5 Gresham. 6
 6 2 Harness. 2 Collins. Stephenson. Follett. 2 Mussy. Hills 3 Selves 2 Harness Stocken.
 11 M^{re} de Mussy
 12 M^{rs} Harness. Liberal 7.
 13 Willis's 2.30 p.m.
 Archdeacon. 7.15
 15 3 Thackerays. 3 Selves. 2 Benzons. Landseer. 1 Shawe O'Dowd. Phinn. 2 Collins's Woodford.³⁹
 19 Mem to send M^{rs} Bakewell 12.10. Phinn.
 20 M^r Benzon
 22 Heath.
 26 Sir J. Colville 7.
- December 3 Millais 7.15
 4 M^{rs} Mansfield
 7 Charter house.

³⁷ A four act play by Clairville and Paul Aimé Chapelle (1806-1900), called *Laurencin*, based on the fairy tale of Charles Perrault. It was first presented at the Théâtre de la Gaité on August 14, 1863.

³⁸ Frederick William Hamstede, a retired city-clerk of little education who served as secretary for "Our Club". He regarded professional authors with reverence and thought it a great privilege to be allowed to associate with them. He was not prepossessing in appearance. "Besides being a small man," writes Jeaffreson (*A Book of Recollections*, I, 224), "he was a hunchback, and so crippled in his limbs that he could not move across a room without the help of a stick." Thackeray became very fond of Hamstede, whom he took under his protection when banter at "Our Club" became rough. See Masson's *Memories of London in the Forties*, pp. 250-256.

³⁹ General Sir Alexander Woodford (1782-1870), later (1868) Field-Marshal.

DIARY FOR 1863

415

- 9 J. Merivale 9.30
- 10 Priaulx
- 11 Forsyth
- 12 C. H.⁴⁰
- 16 D. R.
- 17 Forsyth.

⁴⁰ Charterhouse.

APPENDIX XXV

THACKERAY AND THE NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMMITTEE

Among Thackeray's papers are the two clippings reproduced on the next two pages, which he cut from newspapers during the last week of his life. Did they not exist to testify that the National Shakespeare Committee was a matter of some concern to him, it would hardly be necessary to describe the proceedings of that organization.¹ "I wish to — well Jupiter or Thor," Shirley Brooks wrote to Dallas on November 13, 1863, "that Thackeray would leave off caring about the snarls of these little Bohemian curs. They *know* he writhes, & therefore snap whenever they can. But there is no persuading a man out of his sensations."²

The journalistic allies of Edmund Yates, whose abuse of Thackeray by no means terminated with the failure of his action against the Garrick Club in 1859, included William Hepworth Dixon and John Cordy Jeaffreson of *The Athenæum*. As we have seen, these men first showed their hand in *The Athenæum* of April 25, 1863, by a virulent review of Anne Thackeray's *Story of Elizabeth*, a blow which was calculated to hurt Thackeray even more than his daughter.³ During the following summer Dixon was chiefly responsible for the foundation of a National Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration Committee. Aware that the management of this Committee was unfriendly to him, Thackeray ignored two circular-invitations to join it that he received. When Dickens, Tennyson, and Bulwer-Lytton became committeemen and Vice Presidents of the Shakespeare Association, however, Thackeray's friends injudiciously sought to secure a similar honor for him. Their proposal was brought before the Committee on December 7, and Dixon had the malign satisfaction of procuring its rejection by a considerable majority.

This direct and intentional affront to Thackeray, for such it was despite the arguments which Dixon and Jeaffreson later offered in palliation of their offence, was brought to the notice of the public by Henry Vizetelly in the "Lounger at the Clubs" column of *The Illus-*

¹ In what follows I have depended chiefly on Vizetelly's narrative in *Glances back through Seventy Years*, II, 105-110, though I have not ignored Jeaffreson's presentation of the case for the defence in his *Book of Recollections*, I, 316-322.

² From an original letter owned by Mr. Wells.

³ See above, Appendix XXIV, note 15.

The Shakespeare M.C. in London is acquiring for itself a very inferior notoriety by its capricious and utterly unbusinesslike proceedings. The nominal list of the Committee of V.P.s is numerous and imposing but none of these distinguished persons attend to the management of the funds of the society. **DECEMBER 18, 1863.** **THE HOM**

jealousies and antipathies that mark their conduct by glancing at a scene which took place there recently. Colonel Sykes (who has nothing to do with the clique) was in the chair when Mr. Thackeray was proposed as a vice-president, a similar distinction having been recently conferred on Mr. Dickens and Sir Bulwer Lytton. "So natural a proposition," says the writer, "did this seem to Colonel Sykes that he was about to put the resolution as an unopposed motion when one of the honorary secretaries of the committee, the well-known editor of a certain literary journal famous for puffing the books of its contributors, rose and objected that, as Mr. Thackeray was not already a member of the committee, he was ineligible for the office of vice-president. Attention, however, having been drawn to the fact that nearly the whole of the other vice-presidents had been solicited to accept the position conferred upon them without being previously called upon to join the committee, another writer in the journal spoken of—a novelist of feeble powers—took upon himself to say that he had reasons for believing Mr. Thackeray thought himself so immeasurably superior to the individuals composing the general committee, that he would decline to join it, and he begged the committee not to demean itself, &c. &c., and so forth. This appeal to the self-dignity of a clique of little men, who, for the most part, take their cue from the one honorary secretary—the other never opens his lips, but for ever 'sits like patience on a monument, smiling at grief'—at once settled the question, and it was resolved—the contributors and hangers-on to the particular journal constituting of themselves a majority—that one of the greatest of living writers should not be vice-president of a movement which professes to have at heart the honouring of the literary calling, symbolised in the person of its most distinguished representative—"the poet of all time." We take it for granted that at a future meeting, when the contemptible clique shall be outnumbered, this disgraceful resolution will be reversed, if, indeed, the "movement" do not go off the rails altogether. In the meanwhile the distant reader may be curious to know who the literary potentates are who have determined that Mr. Thackeray shall not participate in the Shakespeare celebration. The "well-known editor" is Mr. Hepworth Dixon, and the journal he edits is the 'Athenæum'; the "novelist of feeble powers" is one Mr. Cordy Jefferison; and the honorary secretary who "never opens his lips" is Mr. J. O. Halliwell, a gentleman very much out of place in such a situation.

THE "LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS."

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.'

SIR—It having been very frequently stated, in metropolitan and provincial newspapers, that the article "The Lounger at the Clubs" in the *Illustrated Times* is written by me, I shall be much obliged by your giving publicity to the fact that, as statements implicating individuals by their names have been introduced into that article without my sanction, I have relinquished my connection with the *Illustrated Times*, and protested against a practice which any respectable journal in England would hold to be unwarrantable.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

EDMUND YATES.

Mayesbury House, Willesden, Dec. 19.

THACKERAY AND THE NATIONAL SHAKESPEARE COMMITTEE

trated *Times* for December 12.⁴ Other London magazines and newspapers that concerned themselves with literature were not slow to take up the cry against the *Athenæum* clique. And Thackeray's death on December 24 made the affair a major scandal.

On Christmas Day Shirley Brooks speculated that: "Perhaps [Thackeray] is now explaining to Shakespeare why he was not on the Committee — and why Dixon is, and they laugh good-naturedly",⁵ but neither Brooks nor the rest of Thackeray's journalistic friends were inclined to let Jeaffreson and Dixon off scot free. The two were severely censured at the meeting of the Committee on January 11, 1864, and later in the month Vizetelly published a pamphlet called *The National Shakespeare Committee and the Late Mr. Thackeray*, which is made up of excerpts from articles in the London press about the affair.⁶ The prestige of the Committee was by this time irretrievably damaged, and the visions of a £30,000 monument to Shakespeare that Dixon had entertained, writes Jeaffreson, "resulted in nothing more important than a modest sum of funded money, which may be serviceable to Shakespearian celebrants in 1964, and the planting of a small oak on Primrose Hill, which has hitherto declined to grow much bigger."⁷

⁴ The greater part of Vizetelly's article is quoted in the first of the clippings reproduced opposite pp. 416-17. Thackeray found the second clipping interesting because Yates in it offers public assurance to Dixon and Jeaffreson that he has had no hand in the exposure of their manoeuvres.

⁵ From an original letter to Percival Leigh in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library.

⁶ On the cover of this pamphlet are quoted some Elizabethan or pseudo-Elizabethan verses, one line of which reads "Crocodiles weep tears for thee". To these words the note is appended: "See Mr. Edmund Yates's letter to the *Belfast Northern Whig*; report of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's speech, *Daily Telegraph*, Jan. 5th; Mr. Cordy Jeaffreson's letter, *Daily News*, Jan. 7th."

⁷ *A Book of Recollections*, I, 316.

APPENDIX XXVI

EXCERPTS FROM THACKERAY'S UNPUBLISHED LETTERS TO MRS. BROOKFIELD, MRS. ELLIOT, AND MISS PERRY

For reasons given in the preface it has proved impossible to publish a number of Thackeray's letters to Mrs. Brookfield and to Mrs. Elliot and Miss Perry. The excerpts from these letters in the *Lambert* and *Goodyear* catalogues are so extensive and important, however, that this appendix has been devoted to reprinting the texts and descriptions there first made public. A few additional fragments of letters to Mrs. Elliot and Miss Perry are included from a Sotheby catalogue of May 28-30, 1934, here called the *Elliot Catalogue*.

1. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD 25[?] FEBRUARY 1848

Lambert Catalogue, p. 42. One page, 12mo. "Written immediately after the revolution of February 22, in France."

13 Young St., Kensington, Friday

... Paris is so tranquil from all accounts that we need fear no danger for any of our friends there. I have a letter from my mother written the day after the fighting (some of which had taken place under her window) and all were safe and well....

2. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY 30 JUNE 1848

Lambert Catalogue, p. 52; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo.

June thirty, Friday

D—r l—d—s!

[Thackeray omits many of the vowels in this letter, hoping that the] C—l—nial Off—ce won't c—nc—l any more d—sp—tches. . . . [The rainy weather, which he deplores, prevented him from coming to them, lest he should have appeared] w—t to the sk—in and my c—at

w—stc—t and p—nt—l—ns all dr—pp—ng! After that I was in
 s—ch an ag—ny with V—n—ty F—r¹ that it was imp—ss—ble to
 st—r. I only f—n—sh'd y—st—r—day and was too f—t—gued to
 wr—te then. . . . But I am alw—ys, Your w—ll w—sher,
 W. M. Th—ck—r—y

3. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
 OCTOBER 1848

Lambert Catalogue, p. 43; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. Incomplete. Two concluding pages, 8vo.

. . . [*Writing of doctors:*] What can be said of a man who says one day lie flat on the peril of your life, and the next, get up, walk, run, drink porter at mid-day and quinine all the afternoon. They know nothing; they grope about in the darkness and hit or miss — everybody does. . . . [*Of his mother:*] I look at her character, and go down on my knees as it were with wonder and pity. It is Mater Dolorosa, with a heart bleeding with love. Is not that a pretty phrase? I wrote it yesterday in a book,² whilst I was thinking about her — and have no shame somehow now in writing thus sentimentally to all the public; though there are very few people in the world to whom I would have the face to talk in this way tete-a-tete. To you I can because you are made of the same soft stuff . . .

W. M. T.

4. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
 22 DECEMBER 1848

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. One page, 12mo.

Friday

. . . The weather is 'Eavenly. I am going on with III³ pretty well. I wish my gals was here. I am at the Bedford, but whether I shall come to London to-day or tomorrow Lauramussy only knows. This morning I could do no work because of the abomnanable brass bands. . . . I have been in love, but am restored to my usual state.

¹ The final number (chapters 64 to 67), published for July.

² In chapter 2 of *Pendennis* (*Works*, II, 19), which with chapters 1 and 3 forms number I of that novel, published for November, 1848.

³ Chapters 7 to 10 of *Pendennis*, published for January, 1849.

5. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
31 JANUARY 1849

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 320, facsimile of first page. Two pages, 8 vo.

Ship. Dover.

Just before going away

My dear lady, How long is it since I have written to you in my natural handwriting? *but having just completed another very sentimental letter to you in the other penmanship I think best to cancel it and* tell you simply that I am so far on my road to Paris Meurice's Hotel Rue Rivoli and that I had made up my mind to this great I may say decisive step when I came to see you on Saturday before you went to Hither Green. I didn't go to the Sterling⁴ as it was my last day and due naturally to the family We went to bed at 9 1/2 o'clock. To day I went round on a circuit of visits, including Turpin at your house — it seems as if I was going on an ever-so-long journey — Have you any presentiments? I know some people who have — Thank you for your note of this morning and my dear old W^m for his regard for me — Try you, and conserve the same — As I get older I will grow so polite calm and elegant in my behaviour that I will never at least offend you by too much abandon Shall I begin and call Mrs. Brookfield again? Ah no. I have not got to that, dear lady. You shall be my dear lady always to me and I will be your affectionate Grandfather . . .

W. M. T.

6. TO KATE PERRY
JULY 1849

Lambert Catalogue, p. 61; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. One page, 16mo. "Thackeray writes for news of Mrs. Brookfield, who was at this time in Southampton with Mrs. Fanshawe. The latter was very ill."

Dear Miss

. . . I am alarmed at not hearing. All yesterday I was in a panic thinking that something had happened there, and came home with a perfect certainty that ill news would be waiting for me . . .

W. M. T.

⁴ The Sterling Club. See above, No. 677.

7.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD

11 SEPTEMBER 1849

Lambert Catalogue, p. 44. Four pages, 12mo.

Hotel Bristol

... Mrs. Errington in a slouched Spanish hat with a black feather, and real cheeks as red as roses looked uncommonly handsome, handsomer than the portrait Lawrence painted of her as Miss Macdonald more than twenty years ago. We used to have prints of it, when boys, in our rooms at College. What a bore to be a beauty famous enough to be engraved, and have the register of your birth always against you! If you have your picture done Madame, don't have an engraving of it, so that interested people may know your age and expose you. . . . Altogether it was a pleasant scene and a cheery evening. I wound it up with the amusement of smoking at the Embassy with one of the attaches, and my lord Douglas who had been with the President on a railway excursion. He will be Emperor before long, that you may communicate to my lords of the Council; and then I suppose he will have to fly like other potentates out of this uneasy kingdom. . . . I have still been reading the Vicomte de Bragelonne and am angry that there are only 12 volumes as yet to read . . .

8.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD

18 SEPTEMBER 1849

Lambert Catalogue, p. 45. Two pages, 12mo.

... I was in such hag'nies at dinner that though they got me a slipper (by which I had the advantage of showing a neat stocking to Lady Rodd) I was obliged to go home and send for a doctor. He put me to bed, where I am to stop today and perhaps tomorrow working at Penderennis. . . . My leg is to be amputated tomorrow, but I shall be well on Thursday, and shall come to see you with my leg in my hand. I suppose one only gets to simplicity a force d'artifice, and gradually casts off the skin of fine writing. Is it honesty or only consummate roguery? Both I think — honesty and policy —

9. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
3 NOVEMBER 1849

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 44-45. Four pages, 12mo. Mentions the rainy day and the state of Thackeray's health.

Saturday, 8⁵

... And what do you think else I should like to do? To see you, I dare say you think, but that's not what I meant you vain woman — I meant that the paper looks so nice and white, I should like to write a page of *Pendennis*. Doesn't all this prove I am getting stronger? ... I saw Albert Goldsmid's weak aquiline beak and purple hair on the pier, and we greeted each other without the least cordiality. ... I feel as if I was never going to smoke again, and to lead an altogether new life — who knows? perhaps I shall turn historian or divine. ... What makes you so frightened of my mother. It is only her figure-head which is awful; her guns are never shotted. ...

W. M. T.

10. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
8 DECEMBER 1849?

Lambert Catalogue, p. 45; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. One page, 12mo.

... As I thought your beautiful countenance wore an igspression of alarm when I went away last night and you looked as if you thought I was going to be ill again this to inform you that I had a famous sleep of 12 hours and am this morning igseeding cheerful ...

W. M. T.

11. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
1849

Collection of Letters, p. 67; *Lambert Catalogue*, p. 45. Incomplete. One page, 12mo.

Wednesday. 1849.

What have I been doing since these many days? I hardly know. I have written such a stupid number of *Pendennis* in consequence of not

⁵ A mistake for Saturday, November 3, 1849.

seeing you, that I shall be ruined if you are to stay away much longer. K. Perry, her name is K. (I don't call her by her Xtian name but am very fond of her because she loves you and pities me) found me out — Says she to me . . . 'It is clear to me that you are always thinking of something else; your soul's not in your work; you go about to parties but don't take any heed of 'em. Your heart's in the Highlands,' . . .

12. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
5 MARCH 1850

Lambert Catalogue, p. 52; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. One page, 12mo. Thackeray explains his sudden departure for Paris.

Paris, Mar. 5

. . . I got sick of waiting outside a certain door in P--rtm--n St. . . . I am engaged to Lady Molesworth to dinner tomorrow. Do send excuses. . . . Well, I'm not near so miserable as I try and make myself out to be and I intend to be jolly for 10 days or so here. Aren't you coming at Easter too? I have got such nice rooms. Come and let us go and have little larks together. We may be happy yet. I don't know why I wrote you this, for as you see very well it is all nonsense. . . .

13. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
12 MARCH 1850

Lambert Catalogue, p. 60; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321, where the last page is given in facsimile. Three pages, 8vo.

Hotel Bristol, Place Vendome, Tuesday

My dear young ladies (for so by courtesy you still may be called)

. . . Makepeace is still staying on at Paris trying to get his wounds healed. He had a visit from Miss Smith yesterday who communicated conjugal intelligence to him; he did not say what he thought of the gentleman who is going to be married. He hates every man who is going to marry a nice girl. . . . He has been to a party in the Faubourg St. Germain, and has noted the manners of the inhabitants; making some remarks upon Anglo-French and American Snobs which may serve him in future publications of a satirical nature. He made acquaintance in the railway with Caradoc Baron Howden who asked him to

dinner, where as usual he ate and drank a great deal too much. . . .

. . . (not that he has used it to any purpose for this confounded French paper drinks in the ink and wont let the pen run) what struck and pleased him most was a Suisse in the hall, who when the guests entered rose from his seat seized a halbert and brought it to the ground with a prodigious clink w^h astonished and terrified Makepeace very much. He says he has eaten of many dinners but never tasted a Swiss before.

He cannot describe to you one of the plays w^h he has seen because you would blush so and say 'O for shame you naughty wretch.' He blushed for this country in beholding the piece of Daphnis and Chloe. Perhaps he would like to see it again (so attractive is Vice) but if he does he will say nothing to nobody.

He hears from home that the Miss Berrys have asked him to an entertainment. He begs his good friends M^{rs} J. E. & Miss KP. to tell those ladies that he is in foreign parts, and to assure them that his heart is in London.

Yes his heart is in London. Some of it on one side of the Park but some on the tother, a great deal at Kensington thank God and a good bit at Thuttysevincheshimplacelown-square: ⁶ where he hopes everybody is quite well, and whither (for he is grammatical in the midst of all his errors) he sends a benediction

Why dont you come here if you please? I give my best regards to everybody and am your friend and well wisher

Blanche Foker.



14.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
JUNE 1850?

Lambert Catalogue, p. 46. Two pages, 12mo. Thackeray promises to get a box at the theatre for Mrs. Brookfield.

. . . I am going to dine with C. B.⁷ again, at an early family party, and will come in the evening to pay my respects at the theatre. . . .

⁶ The Elliots and Miss Perry lived at 37 Chesham Place, near Lowndes Square.

⁷ Charlotte Brontë.

15. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
11 JULY 1850

Lambert Catalogue, p. 46. One page, 12mo.

Dieppe, July 11

... I was so sick and ill this morning that I determined on instant flight. And I write one word to say God bless you and little baby and his reverence, and I've been working at Punch for the dear life ever since I've been here — and now, now, I go upon the blew, blew sea. . .

W. M. T.

16. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
21 AUGUST 1850

Lambert Catalogue, p. 45; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. Three pages, 8vo.

From the old shop, 21.

... At the train whom do you think I found. Miss (Gore) who says she is Blanche Amory, and I think she is Blanche Amory,⁸ amiable (at times) amusing, clever and depraved. We talked and persifflated all the way to London; and the idea of her will help me to a good chapter, in which I will make Pendennis and Blanche play at being in love, such a wicked false humbugging love, as two blase London People might act, and half deceive themselves that they were in earnest.⁹ That will complete the cycle of Mr. Pen's worldly experiences, and then we will make, or try and make, a good man of him. O! me, we are wicked worldlings most of us, may God better us and cleanse us. . . I wonder whether ever again I shall have such a happy peaceful fortnight as that last? How sunshiny the landscape remains in my mind, I hope for always; and the smiles of dear children and the aspect of the kindest and tenderest face in the world to me. God bless you, God bless you my sister. I know what you'll do when you read this — well, so am I. I can hardly see as I write for the eye-water. . . How happy your dear regard makes me! How it takes off the solitude and eases it. May it continue pray God till your head is as white as mine. . . O Love and Duty — I hope you'll never leave us quite. Instead of being unhappy because that delightful holiday is over or all but over, I intend that the thoughts of it

⁸ But see *Memoranda*, Theresa Reviss.

⁹ See chapters 63 and 64 of *Pendennis* in number XX for September and XXI for October, 1850.

should serve to make me only the more cheerful and help me, please God, to do my duty better . . .

17.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
OCTOBER 1850

Lambert Catalogue, p. 47; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. Three pages, 12mo.

. . . We went to breakfast at 9 1/2 when I amused the company by making many and bad puns, they serve like *Jeux de societe* to carry the hours through, and had a pleasure in practising them on Rawlinson and on the kind and sublime Henry Taylor. Familiarity has the zest of irreverence almost before that angelic man — he smiles sadly under jokes: and says he's capable of making them under strong pressure, but though I asked him to make a joke on the instant he couldn't ¹⁰ do one. Honest Rawlinson is a good brave fellow. . . . At eleven we went to the school to see Wm's school-mistress whom they've been exalting here as a merry-ole of beauty. She was very neat and lives in the dearest little school house with a kitchen and parlor like the rooms of the heroine of a novel, and she had 30 children to instruct, and Mr. Salmon the parson is always coming to see her in the hours when the children are NOT there. . . . But I had time to think about other things as we plodded over the turnips and ploughed lands: about you, O my sister, though I know you think that I drop you when I'm away from you: whereas, whereas — the manner in which a man manages to accomodate 2 thoughts into his mind is curious. You're never away from me — from waking to nightcap time. Will you always be there my dear and let your name and my young ones' go together in that last small prayer? It must have been about this time last year that I was just out of the Valley of the Shadow of Death . . . ¹¹

W. M. T.

18.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
1850?

Lambert Catalogue, p. 48. One page, 12mo. Thackeray asks if he may leave his daughters with Mrs. Brookfield while he is at Hampstead.

¹⁰ *Lambert Catalogue* reads *could'nt*.

¹¹ *Psalms*, 23, 4.

19. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
JANUARY 1851?

Lambert Catalogue, p. 46. Four pages, 8vo.

... I went to dine with my aunt on Thursday and to the Presidents soiree at night. There must have been thousands of people there, the whole street was full of cabs and coaches. To get up to make your bow to the great man, you had to shoulder through a little covered gallery and hot ballroom crammed with folks. I met the Ambassador elbowing through the crowd, 'Sir,' said I, 'my shoestring is untied. Do you think the President of the Republic will notice it?' At which Lord Normanby said, 'The President will look up at you — not down.' And the fact is he gave me a shake of the hand through a little naval officer over whose head I made an elegant bow. . . . But you should have seen Lord Normanby's puzzled face when I put the question about the shoe-string, with that inveterate flippancy which Mr Wilkins remarks and deprecates in your most obedient servant. I know its disrespectful, but I can't help myself . . .

20. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
17-20 JANUARY 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 47. Four pages, 12mo.

... When I tell you ma'am that there were TRADESMEN and their wives present [*at the President's Ball*]! I saw one woman pull off a pair of list slippers and take a ticket for them at the greatcoat repository; and I rather liked her for being so bold. Confess now would you have the courage to go to court in list slippers and ask the footman at the door to keep 'em till you came out? Well, there was Lady Castlereagh looking uncommonly 'andsome, and the Spanish Ambassador's wife blazing with new diamonds and looking like a picture by Velasquez, with daring red cheeks and bright eyes. And there was the Princess what-d'you-call-'em, the President's cousin, covered with diamonds too, superb and sulky. . . . The children went to church yesterday and Minny sat next to Guizot, and Victor Hugo was there — a queer heathen. Did you read of his ordering his son to fight a duel the other day with the son of another literary man? Young Hugo wounded his adversary and I suppose the father embraced him and applauded him — and goes to Church afterwards as if he was a Christian. . . . I am going again to

Gudin's tonight being tempted by the promise of meeting Scribe,¹² Dumas, Méry, and if none of them are there what am I to do . . .

21. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
1851

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 320. One page, oblong.

. . . I am on a ride for my health's sake, and in the midst of the commencement of my work. I must do it, I mustn't go on idling and ogling and drinking tea and dining and so forth — What would you say if I made a fiasco in June? ¹³ But I like just to pass by and say that I am yours as usual: and should be glad to know that you were well . . .

22. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
14 MAY 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 48. One page, 12mo.

. . . I can't help sending you a line to say that the night's proceedings ¹⁴ are over; that the speech went off very well (I don't in the least know what occurred) and that Peel made a pointed and handsome compliment at the end of his address. . . .

23. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
23 SEPTEMBER 1851

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. One page, oblong 12mo.

. . . The affair is at an end and the rupture complete. Monsieur ¹⁵ has spoken out like a man . . . There is nothing more to be said or done . . . There have been very high words between me and Monsieur in consequence of something I said to him that was quite unjustifiable . . . But they'll probably leave London and the affair will end. I am going out of town and I don't know where.¹⁶ God bless you all.

¹² Eugène Scribe (1791-1861), the famous playwright; Joseph Méry (1798-1865), poet, playwright, and novelist.

¹³ That is, in his lectures on *The English Humourists*, the first of which was given on May 22, 1851.

¹⁴ See above, No. 777.

¹⁵ Brookfield.

¹⁶ Thackeray left London on September 24 for Matlock Bath.

24. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
26 SEPTEMBER 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 53; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 12mo.

Friday, Chatsworth ¹⁷ if you please

Ladies

... You will see into what quarter I am got... I came down to Matlock, made a sketch at Haddon Hall, and a very bad sketch too, wrote, read, worked hard, but it wouldn't do to drive dull care away, and yesterday I... came to a famous inn here, wrote and read, and, ah! the devil was with me still... And this morning [I] wrote to Mr. Paxton ¹⁸... and the answer was Paxton in a carriage to fetch me... and a gracious reception from the Duke... I've been round the house, and seen the interior splendour — pictures, and state-rooms, and manuscripts in the library... and oh! but the Devil is with me still gnawing away... I had a great mind to say 'Show me the Bluebeard Closet where the dead wives and the murdered secrets are: you must have a Bluebeard Closet — everybody has one.'¹⁹ Let me go and sit in that — it's that I'd like best. I write because I'm unhappy. If I write my book ²⁰ in this frame of mind it will be diabolical. I wrote a bit yesterday that was quite Satanic and raged about with a dreadful gaiety. Can you do anything to soothe and ease that poor lady? Mrs. Fanshaw sent me a letter of hers about me and at me, and what do you think I did? I wrote back to Mrs. F. to inform her principal that even this roundabout correspondence oughtn't to be; that her husband acting at this moment nobly and gently must be nobly and gently used, and until he authorized a correspondence none such must be. And now, and now, if she's in torment take her a drop of water with you from another soul in purgatory. I know it will soothe her to know that I'm unhappy... the only thing is Duty Duty Duty. Her husband is a good fellow and does love her: and I think of his constant fondness for me... and how cruelly I've stabbed him and outraged him with my words...

¹⁷ Chatsworth House, "The Palace of the Peak", a great country mansion built chiefly by the first Duke of Devonshire between 1688 and 1706. Haddon Hall was a medieval house nearby.

¹⁸ Joseph Paxton (1803-1865), later (October 23, 1851) knighted, the famous horticulturalist who designed the plan of the Great Exhibition of 1851. He had been superintendent of the gardens at Chatsworth since 1826.

¹⁹ Compare *Works*, VIII, 118-119.

²⁰ *Esmond*.

25.

TO KATE PERRY
SEPTEMBER 1851

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo.

... Je disais je l'aime je l'aime je l'aime... Que je voudrais les baiser ces chere pieds de ma douce maitresse... Je tremble d'amour quelquefois devant elle... Bon dieu que ses yeux me poursuivent...

26. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD AND KATE PERRY
SEPTEMBER 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 53; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321, where the second page is given in facsimile. Four pages, 12mo. "All correspondence ceased, for the time, between Thackeray and Mrs. Brookfield, but he could not refrain from committing his thoughts to paper, and, writing this letter, sent it to Miss Perry, who undoubtedly showed it to Mrs. Brookfield."

My dear lady

... In October I shall go to Oxford and Cambridge; then in November to Liverpool and Edinburgh, then in January to America most likely...

I shan't see much of my dear Sister, and wherever she is I think my heart will go too. The misfortune of poor W^{ms} mood is that it makes perforce hypocrites of you and all who approach him — We've before talked of these 'lies' pardonnez moi le mot — they are called virtues in women — they are part of the duty w^h my dear has set herself, and in w^h I say God speed her — The fact of your position makes it impossible to write almost — I am not to show that I feel you are miserable. I am not to show that I think your husband is wicked and cruel to you. I am not to show that I think you know you are unhappy, and are treated with the most cruel tyranny — Nobody is to know anything of your misery. We are to go on grinning as if we were happy, because William's cough is certainly very bad, and he should not be disturbed in exercising his temper. The children are very well; kiss yours for me. When I see blue eyes and round faces I look wistfully after them — when I see tall women in black I feel queer — But I've got my work to do and I must do it... I lay awake for a long hour last night thinking of you: and will tonight, and would to God I could think of you happy. God bless you.

W. M. T.

[*A note at the end to Miss Perry reads in part:*] You will see by this letter which I didn't send because I thought I should only bring more tears to her eyes, what my sentiments were regarding my poor lady. . . . After his letter by which I saw how much the poor soul had given me up, I . . . checked all correspondence through that dear good Mrs. F. There can be no harm in a message between friends now and then. . . . What hasn't she given up for that man? Youth and happiness and now her dearest friend — what a friend — and to what a man — a fellow that says to her face he ought to have married a cook, and treats her like one. He'll do better now after this great shock, and shows a great generosity on a great occasion. Good by; don't mind my cries and my rage. I shall be better soon . . .

27.

TO KATE PERRY
SEPTEMBER? 1851

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 53-54; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Incomplete. Two concluding pages, 12mo.

. . . I don't see how any woman should not love a man who had loved her as I did J.; I don't see how any man should not love a woman so beautiful, so unhappy, so tender; I don't see how any husband, however he might have treated her, should be indifferent at the idea of losing it. But that I knew I was safe (I mean that any wrong was out of the question on our children's account) I suppose I should have broken away myself. I'm sure that one or the other on their side were wrong in not dismissing me. But a part of poor Brookfield's pride of possession was that we should envy him and admire her, and of all the weakness, goodness, love, generosity, vanity, playing with edged tools, we are now paying the penalty . . . I wish that I had never loved her. I have been played with by a woman, and flung over at a beck from the lord and master — that's what I feel. I treat her tenderly and like a gentleman: I will fetch, carry, write, stop, what she pleases — but I leave her . . . I was packing away yesterday the letters of years. These didn't make me cry. They made me laugh as I knew they would. It was for this that I gave my heart away. It was 'When are you coming dear Mr. Thackeray,' and 'William will be so happy,' and 'I thought after you had gone away how I had forgot, etc.' and at a word from Brookfield afterwards it is — 'I reverence and admire him and love him with not merely a dutiful but a genuine love' — Amen. The thought that I have been made a fool of is the bitterest of all, perhaps . . . I have loved his wife too much to be able to bear to see her belong even to her hus-

band any more — that's the truth . . . Good bye. I wish it was my novel I'd been writing on all these pages.

W. M. T.

28. TO KATE PERRY
OCTOBER 1851

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. One page, 12mo.

. . . Allez, je vous prie voir ma Dame, ma seule Dame, embrassez la, dites qu'en donnant cette affreuse *lecture* je ne pensai qu'a la voir: que toute la semaine (excepte un seul jour mercredi) j'ai rode autour de sa maison esperant la voir — que de pres ou de loin je ne suis qu'a elle toujours. Consolez, la chere amie et croyez en toute ma reconnaissance — C'est pour derouter le domestique j'ecri ce mauvais jargon. Brulez ma lettre . . .

29. TO KATE PERRY
30 OCTOBER 1851

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo.

My dear K. E. P.

. . . We have not had a reconciliation but a conciliation. Lady Ashburton was nobly kind . . . The morning was spent in parleys and the Inspector and I shook hands at the end and I'm very thankful that her dear little heart is made tranquil on the source of our enmity at least. Friends of course we're not; but bear each other, and in six months things may be better. I think it is not he who is ill it is she, God bless her. It gave me a pang to take his hand too so lean it has grown. But thank God I've shaken it, and now Heaven speed her. . . .

W. M. T.

30. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
NOVEMBER 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 54; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo. Thackeray meets Brookfield half-way when he attempts to apologize.

. . . It is not she who has been a traitress as I thought, nor has she said more than she ought, and she's suffering more than I dare to think,

God bless her. He is full of queer ceremonies, punctilios unheard of amongst men of a franker sort. He clings to the fancy that nobody knows anything about his interior; and I shall of course hold my wagging tongue and speak of his affairs as little as possible. . . . The poor fellow likes mysteries, and when his wife was you know in what a condition insisted that nobody knew or saw the circumstance. God help him. I shall suffer the least of the three. But will it soothe my dear to know that I'm always here, and that I admire her, bless her, love her? I'll keep that light . . . though she mayn't be there to see it: and who knows but some day she may come again & knock at the door . . .

W. M. T.

31.

TO KATE PERRY
DECEMBER 1851

Lambert Catalogue, p. 52; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo.

. . . . [I] met a niece of Lady Scott's, a Mrs. Gregory who began sotto voce to deplore the state of the dear old ladies' minds, and their worldliness & fear about kingdom come. I said God made birds to sing in all sorts of ways, and we must not quarrel with the kindly old note of these — at w'ch Mrs. Gregory said 'Yes but there's one thing we ought all to sing.' So I didn't say why? as I could and perhaps should — But one hasn't the courage of one's opinions. And just before I went to see Walter Scott's old house, and the famous back parlour who should there be with his writing before him too, tranquilly scribbling away but little Doctor Simpson, the obstetrician, you understand who had brought a little girl into the world just 10 minutes before and was settling down to his work quite calmly . . . So you see how life is agoing on ladies, how the old folks are bowled out and the grown pursue their business, and the young come squalling into the globe and so on & so on . . . The place is dangerous for flattery, that's the truth. Well, thank God there are some kind people who are pleased with my twopenny laurels: and God bless two of them . . .

W. M. T.

32.

TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
JANUARY 1852

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo. Thackeray condoles with his friends on the death of Eliot Warburton, who had just lost his life on a burning ship.

33. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
OCTOBER 1852

Lambert Catalogue, p. 48; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. One page, 12mo.

Liverpool, Wednesday

... I cannot come to London till Sunday, when my dear dear sister will be gone; for dear and sister she is to me however she may think it her duty to style me, and I love and bless her always whether I am far away or near...

W. M. T.

34. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
8-10 NOVEMBER 1852

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 54-55. Two pages, 12mo.

... Now the greater part of the voyage is over, and we are within 70 miles of Cape Race; and we are not sick any more, and we talk to one another pretty freely, everything is pretty nearly possible indeed but writing. The ideas stagger about, all the desks and glasses jingle and rattle; the sea-scape out of the window is now so [*sketch*] and then so [*sketch*] (its not the least like the sea or the cabin window, or the boat or anything) and I'm half sick in bending with my head over the confounded quivering creaking table... There is an awful superior woman aboard, Mrs. Lowell with a clever husband, very pleasant... Tell Higgins that canvas backed Dux cost 5 dollars a brace at Boston, and that I wont pay so much, that's flat...

W. M. T.

35. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
7 DECEMBER 1852

Lambert Catalogue, p. 55; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Three pages, 8vo.

New York, Dec. 7, 1852

... It's nothing here but dollars and flattery; but I do not think it harms my head as I keep in constant view that the people are always exaggerating, and that I am not half such a swell in my own country as they make me out here... I don't intend to make a book. No. No. The goose is much too good a goosey to be killed. In fact I'm looking

ahead, and my dear friends must help me. I've been here and there in the 'Upper Ten' world ²¹ but not much. It's the most curious varnish of Civilization. The girls are dressed like the most stunning French actresses, the houses furnished like the most splendid gambling houses. It's all gold and yellow brocade and the little dandies are like little French shop boys, and the houses are all so new that the walls are not even papered, and on the walls in the midst of the hangings of brocade and the enormous gold frames and mirrors you see little twopenny pictures and colored prints. . . . The jolly manner answers here very well, which I have from Nature or Art possibly, and the Press and I, with the exception of the Herald which abuses me like anything, are the best of friends. You should have heard how Bancroft flattered them all at a Press Dinner the other day. There were 30 present, and they made as many speeches, in every one of which they fired a great thundering compliment point blank at me. I didn't flatter a word in reply actually, nor do the cordial business like Dickens . . . God bless you my d. k. f. and kiss a dear sweet lady for me. . . .

36. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
13-15 JULY 1853

Lambert Catalogue, p. 56; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Eight pages, 16mo.

Baden Baden, Wednesday, July 13

. . . I don't remember the day these 10 years when I have felt so much at ease. And this helps me write too. Three days ago I broke ground with the new book and have done 2 days work ever since upon it. . . . I know who I wish was with me. God almighty bless her and make her happy, dearest, fondest, & truest women. . . . It's a great comfort to want no books & nothing but fresh ink and a good pen & paper. . . . [The Newcomes] goes pretty well. . . . not so high-toned or so carefully finished as *Esmond* but that you see was a failure besides being immoral. We must take pains and write careful books when we have made the 10000 for the young ladies. . . . Lord, Lord, how much better this is than being in London! We have a little wickedness here too. I have already lost 5 Napoleons at roulette. . . . I have been reading *Don Quixote* and *Tacitus* in French and part of the latter in Latin — the deuce is in it if my style does not improve from the study of these great authors. . . . This is Friday morning, and by all the powers I am waiting for breakfast again. Haven't I got a sweet temper? Mustn't the girls be very insubordinate. Well, they and I get up when we wake.

²¹ See above, III, 684.

A deal of sleep seems to suit the family; and of all God's gifts I doubt whether that isn't one of the best . . .

W. M. T.

37. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
28-31 JULY 1853

Lambert Catalogue, p. 56; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 12mo.

Vevey, Switzerland, July 28-31

. . . There was a corner of the carriage that of course I often filled up with Somebody, who has a place in her coach too I know for me, whether I fill it or not, and there may be a dozen of children in that carriage, and a poor old Inspector too . . . yet I know there's always a place in it occupied by one W. M. T. . . . The novel is getting on apace, and I shall have done a couple of numbers by the end of the month. Anny is amused, who writes a good deal of it to dictation, a good sign. Mr. Pendennis is the author of the book, and he has taken a great weight off my mind, for under that mask and acting, as it were, I can afford to say and think many things that I couldn't venture on in my own person, now that it is a person, and I know the public are staring at it. I can't talk to folks in Inns, etc. for that reason of my uncontrollable modesty, and wish to the deuce I were not a public character. The Americans have quite conquered Switzerland and the Rhine districts, and the Hotels are as the Astor House. How pretty almost all of the women are; and the men how awful! . . . I think I have spent as pleasant a fortnight as ever I have had in my life, plenty of work, play, health, money, good children. What could man ask for more? Only one thing that he can't have. That one thing everybody hankers after, no doubt . . .

W. M. T.

38. TO THE REV. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD
24 SEPTEMBER 1853

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320. Two pages, 12mo. Thackeray sends a box of cigars.²²

Sept. 24

. . . When I was ill the other day I made a sort of will in which I begged you and Fitzgerald to act as a sort of guardians to the children, .

²² In the box of cigars which accompanied this letter Thackeray enclosed the following note: "My dear Wm. I send you these for the sake of old and constant friendship" (*Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 320).

and that you'd have them every year to stay with you and your dear wife. . . . God bless you both now after 2 years asunder, when there are no more rages on my part, I pray you to forget savage words as I do (for I don't remember what I said or wrote only that a great deal of it was furious and unjust). Forget all this if you can and remember the friend of old days. I shant say anything more, and don't want you to say anything. . . .

W. M. T.

39. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
OCTOBER 1853

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 56-57; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 12mo. Thackeray notes that he has settled for the time in Paris and writes at some length of his mother before turning to the Brookfields.

Paris, Thursday

. . . Dear J. whom I have seen in London, but always with the children & in the company of the poor Inspector who tries his best to smother his hatred of me — only Jack in the box comes rushing out again . . . I remember a passage of a novel called *Esmond* w'ch says when E. thought of the splendour and purity of his dear mistress's love, the thought of it smote him on to his knees.²³ I Behold that beautiful constancy with wonder & thanks to God — with such a feeling as one looks at the Alps or the stars in Heaven. . . . I admire human nature in thinking of her. I think I am nearer to her when away than when sitting by her, talking of things we don't feel — with poor Tomkin's restless eye ever and again trying not to look at us. It's happier that we should love each other in the grave, as it were, than that we should meet by sham-chance, and that there should be secrets or deceit. When you see her preach this to her again and again. Many and many a time a friend of mine whispers me (he is represented in pictures with horns and a tail), 'My good friend *a quoi bon* all this longing and yearning and disappointment; yonder gnawing grief and daily nightly brooding? A couple of lies and the whole thing might be remedied. Do you suppose other folks are so particular?' Behold there are 4 children put their innocent figures between the devil and me; and the wretched old fiend shirks off with his tail between his hoofs. Go and wipe away her tears, you dear kind sisters of charity. My girls I suppose see all about it; but they love her all the same. . . . When I was in England I went and reconciled myself with Mrs. Procter (only those pitchers when

²³ Thackeray is apparently alluding to *Works*, VII, 195.

mended wont hold water any more) and with Higgins who had been offended too, at my not going to him; and paid dutiful visits to all my step-father's relatives and my own; and bought a pretty house, 36 Onslow Square, Brompton, next door to Marochetti; and am to pay for it in 3 years, £700 a year or thereabouts. Whether we go to Rome or not is now undetermined, most likely not. I had some talk with another publisher about doing another kind of work, editing Walpole and writing a life of him. It rains money with me. I may make £5000 in the next year, think of that! . . .

40. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
16 FEBRUARY 1854

Lambert Catalogue, p. 57; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 8vo.

Naples, Feb. 16

. . . For the last 6 weeks, ill as I was, I worked every day, getting up before light, think of that, and scribbling till mid-day. I want to get the book finished. Who knows what may happen. One, two three, severe attacks of my old complaint, and not from any excess this time. . . . If I could shake off the Newcomes I think I should be all the better. But they pursue me: and bother — Stop — thou blabbing egotist! I wonder if by taking to the upright hand I shall write in a better humour . . . ah, me — perpendicular or slantingdicular all comes to the same thing. . . . I must take to politics when I have done Newcomes and the next set of lectures for America; and then in 1855, give up rambling. If I last 2 or 3 more years they will be provided against the day of departure. . . . I made the acquaintance of no ends of converts at Rome, but I don't think they did much to convert the present miserable sinner who writes. How wonderful the works of nature are, which provides men with a traitte that can swallow all those enormous legends! I have been reading various new works. Lockhart's *Life of Scott*, Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Rome under Augustus,²⁴ and Saint Paul's Epistles. I have done the best part of a Child's Fairy Tale for next Xmas, and the Newcomes up to almost June next. . . . I had nobody at Rome that I care for except Adelaide Sartoris, who is one of the best of creatures, but you know there must always be a little comedy in any intimacy in that quarter. I learned to admire but not to endure Fanny Kemble . . .

W. M. T.

²⁴ *History of the later Roman Commonwealth from the end of the Second Punic War to the Death of Julius Caesar; and of the Reign of Augustus: with a Life of Trajan* (1845) by Thomas Arnold (1795-1842), republished from *The Encyclopædia Metropolitana*.

41.

TO KATE PERRY
25 MARCH 1854

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 57-58, where the date is given, apparently from the postmark; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 8vo.

My dear K. E. P.

... It has been the decree of Allah that the writer of this his slave should undergo many tribulations in this region. I had two severe attacks of illness at Rome and have been visited here with [an] other two. Add to which the girls have had the scarletina, and I leave you to fancy how pleasant our sojourn here has been. . . . Two days since, in the early, early morning, looking out of the window on Capri yonder [*water-color sketch*] and the beautiful, beautiful rosy-tinted nature; I was thinking of the girls convalescing, and asleep close by; and of that day 15 years ago when their little sister died at sunrise. O you sweet and bitter thoughts. . . . All my private art business at Rome was an utter failure. . . . Art turned away her countenance or I did not dare to interrogate her. But there is very little Art that the fact — not that great blustering hulking Colosseum for instance, nor those simpering Canovas, sickly Guidos, swaggering Caracci — only bits here and there. I went yesterday to see the Farnese Hercules made by Glykon the Athenian as he announces at the foot of the Statue and Glykon has been passed as you know, as well as the Statue, for a stunning fine fellow. O the great coarse bumptious old braggart! Playing a smart piece on the piano, or cutting a neat figure of 8 on the Serpentine, or writing a Review; are really as good as that thumping piece of Skill. There are avenues of worthless marble and canvass here and at Rome. . . . I have bought some old English paper marked 1837, made when we were tolerably young people, and its such a comfort to write on, with an old fashioned quill. But I ought to be writing No. XI and XII of the New-comes,²⁵ Miss — and though the first volume is rather slow, I promise you the second shall have plenty of interesting business in it . . .

W. M. T.

²⁵ Chapters 33 to 38, published for August and September, 1854.

42.

TO KATE PERRY
19 JULY 1855

Lambert Catalogue, p. 58; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Three pages, 8vo.

Hombourg, July 19, 1855

... The dear old soul [*Thackeray's mother*] made me pass thirty miserable hours, and kept me awake a night and gave me a headache — What, won't this other, wise saint of a woman ever cease to stab and wound me? ... When you are married, when you have a beautiful only son, when you are a widow, why then, take care and don't marry again — for you can't hold the son & the husband too; & from wishing to have too much love at a time, you may lose what once was secure. If I married a widow I don't think I could be heartily fond of her children, and these, if good little dears, ought never to forgive their mother for loving their step-papa. No if ever I marry I will have an artless young virgin — who doesn't know the ways of the world, who never flirted with any other party, whose character is all simplicity, and whose young affection should be all mine. ...

Miss, very few pictures or stalties are worth a pin. After dangling for hours about the Exposition at Paris I came to that conclusion irrevocably. So and so, this portrait or that landscape is very nice; but apres? Bon Dieu what's the use of doing them? Say you can copy trees or human faces skilfully, well? Say you can black boots, or make puddings, or turn gimcracks at a lathe, why not? Nothing is so overrated as the Fine Arts. ... Its pleasant though, in Sidney Smith,²⁶ to get glimpses of the old Whig society — of the folks only just dead and gone. That book would make a good lecture wouldn't it? to repeople Holland House, to revivify the old Edinburgh Review clique, to light up again the poor dear old dead lights in Curzon Street and set the kind old souls talking round the hissing silver cauldron. Rise up again out of limbo ye three old bodies! Lift up the grave stone with thy nose Foley! Pluck the sword out of thy ribs and come from behind the arras old Polonius! ...

²⁶ Lady Holland's *Memoir of Sydney Smith* (1855).

43. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
22 OCTOBER 1855

Elliot Catalogue, p. 88. Two pages, 8vo.

Oct. 22, 1855

... This day week I think it was we passed Cape Clear — The week has seemed about a year. It has been awfully stupid; it has blown every way, soft, hard, very hard, in our teeth, in our stern;²⁷ the sea has been mountings high; it has not been sick that is the present heroic Nelson has not except once a very little in the midst of a very little shivering fit....²⁸

Shall I give you sarcastic accounts of my fellow passengers. Of that confounded old Massachusetts? ex-lady school mistress who talks platitudes all dinner and breakfast and tea and lunch too only I don't go there... No, we won't make fun of the passengers — we are too old to care for those jokes — what do we care that some of the Americans are not over refined; the Germans very greedy especially that broot who sits opposite and I declare has taken pork and currant jelly, cucumbers and oil and vinegar, all with the same knife. There are Jews of Poland and Almayne who are both odious and amusing — but at our age with our matured politeness, these details become insignificant and disagreeable even. Heaven bless the man! Why has he nothing to say? ...

What a comfort it is that women in our country are unlike the women of this and are comfortable and pleasant to look at [for] years — this is suggested by a wizened old American hag of 35 who passes — she was a beauty 15 years ago (suppose the wind should blow this paper to her and her husband or she pick it up and read it? Lor!) We remain quite good looking up to 50, 60, 70 don't we? Time doesn't hurt the dear kind old faces....

W. M. T.

²⁷ *Elliot Catalogue* reads *starn*.

²⁸ *Elliot Catalogue* reads *bit*.

44. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
30-31 OCTOBER 1855

Elliot Catalogue, p. 88. Four pages, 8vo.

Clarendon Hotel, N. Y.
30-31 October, 1855

... won't you like to hear that all the seats are taken for the lectures — and that we shall repeat them D. V. about 4 times in and about New York in the month of November. Mesdames the dollars will begin to rain again — the way in wh they go on here about the Newcomes makes my eyes wink with surprize I mean. You have no idea what a big dog I am voted by some. Doctor Kane²⁹ who is come back from his Arctic expedition says he watched one of his sailors for hours poring over a book in the endless night and lo it was Pendennis. . . .

O but last night I had such a narrow escape from awful danger! I tremble now when I tell you — I live on the 3rd floor — came in late from a remarkably good dinner at Delmonico's, took my key and went to my sitting-room, pulled off my boots and began to undress. When lo and behold — a voice from the bedroom within sweetly cried out Georgey! I had got into the second floor room by mistake — I dashed out of the place gathering my garments together — it's a mercy I'm here upon the third floor. How kind people are here; I am affected by their friendliness and affte. welcome. Sunday dining with Mrs. Baxter — the good soul brings out a bottle of brandy peachs wh I had liked and eaten on the last day I was here — and she put them away and kept them till my return — they choked me somehow . . . An old gentleman at dinner yesterday told me a story about George III wh made me cry. Willis³⁰ his Dr. took charge of him on the express condition that his remedy was never to be divulged.³¹ He said to Q. Charlotte he would kill her if she told what had passed — what had passed was that he was flogged like a nigger. . . .

W. M. T.

²⁹ *Elliot Catalogue* reads *Kahn*.

³⁰ Dr. Francis Willis (1718-1807), who attended George III during his first attack of madness.

³¹ *Elliot Catalogue* reads *devulged*.

45. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
20 NOVEMBER 1855

Elliot Catalogue, p. 89. Three pages, 8vo.

Clarendon, New York,
Nov. 20

... The lectures are going better and better — the people like them better as they begin to understand about them. Papers that were hostile are now pretty complimentary. What matters provided the dollars pour in and the knowing ones are satisfied?

... The war news from England has set us all in a fine flurry. Something tells me I shan't be so very long away from that island. O to go back again, and see folks, won't it be pleasant?

... The girls I hear from my mother are well and busy and happy. I dare say rest for his brain will do their old father good — this turmoil in wh one lives perforce here occupies the body but not the head; and please God the 5 or 6 months holy day will refresh the present giant and set him going for another good spell of work, the Georges will make a pretty 2 volumes of easy occupation and tittle-tattle gathering wh I can do when I come home. O home, how sweet you'll be!

W. M. T.

46. TO MRS. ELLIOT
1? JANUARY 1856

Elliot Catalogue, p. 90. One page, 8vo. "From New York, with New Years greetings, thanks for a letter, and a newspaper cutting about himself."

... Thank you for yours my dear kind J. E. I hear your kind voice and others tollarollably well remembered and are they not sweet to the wandering youth? Here we are flourishing just as elsewhere — prodigious audience last night. . . and such a night to come to lectures! I could hardly get to my cab so slippery was it across the pavement. . .

W. M. T.

47. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
NOVEMBER 1856

Elliot Catalogue, p. 92. Two pages, 8vo. "About his lectures which were being very successful at Glasgow."

3, Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh

... It isn't a bad profession is it? to be feasted every day to have to work an hour per diem and get £150 or £200 at the end of the week! ... I see I must play this play out and take in the odd harvest wh. seems springing up every day at my feet. Why the girls will be little heiresses if we go on in this way. Let us not be vain nor over proud, but be thankful for what God sends us. ...

W. M. T.

48. TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
2 DECEMBER 1856

Lambert Catalogue, p. 59. Eight pages, 12mo.

Station Hotel, Hull, Monday, Dec. 2, 1856

... I finished at Dumfries on Saturday night in a funny little theatre crammed full of kind people, the night before I had more than 3000 people in the City Hall at Glasgow (but a miscreant society makes all the profits), the night before that was in a church at Paisley, the night before that farewell at Edinburgh — and perhaps I am going [on] a fresh Scottish campaign. It agrees with me wonderfully, the ceaseless racket. Don't you see how I am going back to my natural old handwriting, and giving up that mean literary man's fist? Let this go on, and one more novel, and we absolutely shall be INDEPENDENT. Hip Hip Hurray. ... All the time at Edinburgh was spent at J. Blackwood's house — the most hospitable and magnificent inn I ever put up in — the company not altogether so polished as Sir Charles Grandison or David Dundas,³² but good shrewd fellows, the 4 Blackwood brothers liking each other hugely and sitting jovially together night after night over bottle after bottle of the most prodigious good claret. ... At Paisley Mr. Peter Coats, the great thread-maker, entertained me. You never saw such splendor. The Duchess of Sutherland's room was nothing to

³² Sir David Dundas (1799-1877), liberal statesman, Privy Councillor, Q. C., and bencher of the Inner Temple.

the best bed room. We had 16 to dinner at 6, and eighteen to supper at 10, none of your kickshaws but regular ham and turkey, and all this splendid succession of victualing administered by one maid and a hired waiter to whom Charles graciously condescended to give a little aid. These kind simple people are worth a million of money I daresay and keep 1100 girls working in their factory at thread. I saw the girls, and healthy, jolly, kindly girls they looked. All with good characters, so says Mr. Peter Coats, and why should I doubt about 1100 virgins? . . .

W. M. T.

49.

TO MRS. ELLIOT
6 DECEMBER 1856

Lambert Catalogue, pp. 59-60. Eight pages, 12mo. Thackeray "devotes three pages to a description of his aged mother and querulous stepfather, another to a humorous idea of a funeral pile for Mrs. Elliot."

Hull, Saturday, 6 December

. . . I am glad I am roaming about, and seeing new people, and new aspects of the world. This is a mean ugly petty place but there's very good company in it. The ceremony dinner of 20 was awfully bad to be sure and John upset a glass of Port accurately into my sleeve, but the dinner of leg of mutton with Dr. Cooper (Sir Henry Cooper he is called, having been mayor and knighted last year) was pleasant, and there was a very pleasant and well educated Jew, who has some '20 port which we are going to drink on Sunday . . .

W. M. T.

50.

TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
DECEMBER 1856

Lambert Catalogue, p. 60. One page, 12mo.

. . . With the deepest grief I take my new scissors and cut out [of] my paper at breakfast the following awful SMASHER for yours truly. [*Clipping*] I am picked up again, however, wiped clean and set on my feet by the Bradford paper. [*Clipping*] But the Manchester paper has the most luminous and elegant account of all. [*Clipping*] . . .

51.

TO KATE PERRY
1856?*Lambert Catalogue*, p. 59; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Four pages, 12mo.

Saturday

Mademoiselle

... By going to call on my friends in Chesham Place and by the easy pace of the cabman afterwards I was exactly 1/2 a minute too late for the train yesterday, so, after letting off a quantity of the steam of wrath (I mean wicked oaths, cusses at cabmen and naughty igspres-sions which relieve anger) I concluded to come by a later train. . . .

[*Mrs. Brookfield had evidently threatened to become a Catholic, and of this Thackeray writes:*] She is a woman quite capable of skipping into a Chapel, popping into a confessional before a priest who would hear her, sooth her, absolve her, baptise her and send her home engaged to Catholicism before she knew where she was; and then she would tell her husband; and then it would be bon jour; and away would go Magdalene and Arthur and the Inspector in one cab; and she in another to Our Lady of Sorrows and two guineas a week for her board; and good-by to the children, and to friends whom she loves as a sister, and to those who have loved her as women are not loved every day. I can see Aubrey de Vere³³ coming in with his sanctified smirk to visit her afterwards and the rest of the shavelings coaxing and squeezing her hand and giving her precious conversation and dainty little penances, and making much of her. . . .

W. M. T.

52.

TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
8 MARCH 1857*Elliot Catalogue*, pp. 92 and 94. Four pages, 8vo.

March 8, 1857

... This dissolution will play havoc with my money schemes and nobody will care for lectures when there will be so much spouting at General Elections. Never mind we shall only be a little longer amassing the money — And the consciousness of this quack profession oppresses me daily more and more. Haven't I got enough? Can't I come off the

³³ Aubrey Thomas De Vere (1814-1902), the Catholic poet.

stage and write a book with perfect ease of mind? Well — But that is no excuse, my profession is honester than other folks — honester than you partizan-shouters on the Lorcha question ³⁴ — whose unanimity on one side and the other shocks me — And Lord John's opposition shocks me too. I see personal motives actuating all of them — and — well this is as you say uncommonly stupid, . . .

53.

TO KATE PERRY

24 MARCH 1857

Lambert Catalogue, p. 61; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. One page, 12mo.

Inverness, 24th

. . . If there is anyone Miss Perry knows who wishes to know about anybody Else and Anybody else remembers Anyone this is to say that Anybody else is in pretty good health and spirits and always thinks about Anyone at this season of the year ³⁵ . . .

54.

TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY

MARCH 1857

Elliot Catalogue, p. 92. One page, 8vo. "Apologizing for not keeping an engagement — he had to stay and be feasted in Edinburgh, having had one of his attacks and been unable to keep a prior appointment."

. . . Goodbye, mes bonnes — and its O but I am getting tired of this wandering work.

W. M. T.

³⁴ The lorch *Arrow*, commanded by a British master and possessing a colonial register, was anchored off Canton on October 8, 1856, when she was boarded by a party of imperial soldiers, who seized twelve of the fourteen Chinese members of her crew. The British Consul being unable to secure redress from the Viceroy, a ship of the Royal Navy on October 27 bombarded Canton, and part of the city was soon in British hands. The question of whether Lord Palmerston's colonial representative had been too hasty in his recourse to force, as the conservatives and Lord John Russell charged, became an important parliamentary issue early in 1857. (*Times*, January–February, 1857)

³⁵ Mrs. Brookfield's birthday was on March 25.

55.

TO KATE PERRY
4 AUGUST 1859

Lambert Catalogue, p. 60; *Goodyear Catalogue*, lot 321. Two pages, 12mo.

36 Onslow Sq., 4 August

. . . All day to-day I have been taking a spell at the Virginians, and now it's late, isn't it? and I must dress and go out with the girls. . . . You must know that we go to Brighton where I have taken a house, 126 Marine Parade, for the old folks and the young ones. I shall come backwards and forwards, and be here chiefly I think being bent upon doing a great stroke of work, and having all my books and appliances here about me. . . .

W. M. T.

56.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1846-1851]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49. One page, 12mo.

. . . I have got a ticket for the National Concerts . . . and am going to take the young ones to hear the Berlin Singers . . .

W. M. T.

57.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1850]

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 320. Four lines. Thackeray sends Mrs. Brookfield a seal by Harry Hallam.

. . . I wished to say God Almighty bless the wearer and keep the giver in his love and his duty . . .

58.

TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49. One page, 12mo.

. . . It is very good for some people to scold servants, and make pickles and puddings, and a woman may be very good and charming

who does the latter; but there's a fitness of things, and I hope you won't be too much of a housekeeper as yet . . .

59. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49. One page, 12mo. Thackeray informs Mrs. Brookfield that he cannot take her to the Roman Paragon because he must be at a club to vote for a man he has seconded.

60. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1848-1851]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49. Two pages, 12mo. In French. Thackeray expresses in most affectionate terms his love for Mrs. Brookfield's "*sainte figure*".

61. TO MRS. BROOKFIELD
[1849-1851]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 49. Two pages, 12mo. In French. Thackeray asks Mrs. Brookfield to accompany him on a visit to Lady Ashburton.

62. TO MRS. ELLIOT
[1847-1859]

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. One page, 12mo. Thackeray declines an invitation to dinner.

My dear, no, I beg your pardon, Dear Mrs. Elliot

. . . But I wonder whether you would give me a cup of tea tonight. I shall ride by. A signal in the window, a flower-pot in the balcony, a scarf waved from a casement would suffice to confer hope and happiness . . . on one who is now disappointed and desolate indeed. . . .

63.

TO MRS. ELLIOT
24 JANUARY [1848-1859]

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. One page, 12mo. *Endorsed*: The last I ever received from my dear friend W. Thackeray.

Madame.

. . . I have the honour to inform you that there will be read this evening at the Geographical Society a paper on 'THE ISTHMUS OF KRAW'. As a man I have long known and esteemed him; ³⁶ that he laid claim to be an Isthmus I never knew before. I beg you to accept my sincere congratulations upon this additional honour w'ch has been conferred on your distinguished relative, and am Your most humble servant,
Turn Over.

[*On the other side of the sheet Thackeray has written:*] Now please turn back again.

64. . TO MRS. ELLIOT AND KATE PERRY
[1847-1859]

Lambert Catalogue, p. 61. One page, 12mo. Thackeray writes of the illness of his maid.

65. TO KATE PERRY
[1847-1863]

Goodyear Catalogue, lot 321. One page, 8vo.

My dear K. E. P.

. . . I have got all Mr. Punch to dinner today: isn't it pleasant? . . .

W. M. Thack

³⁶ Presumably John Crawford, a voluminous writer on geographical and ethnological subjects. See above, No. 1439.

APPENDIX XXVII

FORGED THACKERAY LETTERS

For many years a forger operated in London who made a remunerative specialty of Thackeray autographs. Since he had access to channels through which authentic letters passed and since, as Lady Ritchie remarked, his simulation of Thackeray's writing was "distressingly clever", his work has generally been accepted as genuine. There are few large collections of Thackerayana that do not contain at least one letter from his hand.¹

Yet his forgeries should not deceive any careful student of Thackeray's correspondence. His imitation of Thackeray's writing, which is confined to the upright hand, is nearly perfect letter by letter, but his letters are smaller and more crabbed than their prototypes, and his lines are run more closely together than is Thackeray's custom. Thackeray's letters appear to be (as they nearly always were) first drafts; the forger's efforts are laboriously careful copies of texts set before him. If the reader will compare the facsimile of a characteristic forged autograph which appears opposite the next page with the reproduction of Thackeray's letter of 29 February-4 March 1856 which serves as the frontispiece to Volume III of this edition, he should acquire a sense of the difference between the two hands.

The forger also betrays himself in other ways. He had no clear conception of the years during which Thackeray lived at his several London residences, and he consequently dates letters from Kensington when Thackeray was living in Brompton, and vice versa. Not knowing that London was divided into postal districts only in 1858, he employs such anachronistic dates as "Kensington, W. Wednesday, December 9, 1841" and "Kensington, W., August 7th, 1850". He appears to have been ignorant of the existence of perpetual calendars, for he rarely makes the day of the month in his chosen year correspond to the proper day of the week.

But the forger gives himself away most completely in the content of his letters. His facetiousness is painful, his sentiment is inane, and his general observations are invariably the most insipid platitudes. Having no real knowledge of Thackeray's life, he exercises such care in avoiding specific references to persons and events as to make many of his shorter

¹ Attention was first called to his activities in "Thackeray's Autographs", *Saturday Review*, LVIII (1884), 692-693.

notes almost unintelligible. He was apparently aware of these deficiencies, for most of his longer letters are made up of quotations or summaries of historical data, a device that allows him to evade (however implausibly) the insuperable difficulty of imitating Thackeray's thought and style.

There are photostats of some twenty examples of the forger's work in the Harvard College Library.

Saturday

Dear best

I am positively surprised at you. I am indeed. What do you mean by 'they are so common', and 'only buttercups and red clover to see'? - I may yet ramble over our delightful Surrey hills, and you throw cold water on the suggestion. Only buttercups, only clover. That confounded little adverb was never invented before the fall of man, I will affirm. There is nothing "common" in nature, my friend: be sure of that.

Common! Yes, and you in a sense are right, I must own (that is just the wonder of it, that such dazzling brilliancy, such richness of colour should be spread, poured even to waste where there are none to value or even admire! I have seen a distant meadow on a cloudy day, which appeared to be burning in a flood of golden sunshine - not was, in fact, burning in a sunshine of golden buttercups - an effect more exquisite than any picture ever painted by the hand of man; and not was only ~~equaled~~ equaled by a patch of deep, pure rose-colour, looking as though a sunset cloud had fallen on the steep brown side of the nearest hill where it lay, and would fade away again when morning came. It was not a sunset cloud: it was only clover, as you would say. Get rid of such ideas as quickly as you can, for they are as absurd as they are untrue.

I am glad - very glad - to learn that "you two" have made a match of it: and happy to think you are so fond of each other. Buttercups are very beautiful: -

Sweet are those flowers I despair to describe,

Beauteous their bright hue, in spring's bright sun;

Yet not so sweet, or beautiful, as the dream.

Of love that melts two spirits into one!

Ever thine,

Wm Thackeray

APPENDIX XXVIII

THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

A perusal of Thackeray's voluminous correspondence reveals a series of nervous and physical complaints that complicated and at times dominated the greater part of his life. These ranged from ordinary accidents and minor illnesses to chronic organic diseases of major importance. That his life should have been exceedingly full of literary and social activity merely emphasizes the capacity of his genius and the intensity of a spirit that could override so many disabilities. He was by nature temperamental, like most artists; his bodily ailments were aggravated by anxiety and emotional pressure and by uncontrolled conviviality. His letters reveal with rather amazing insight and frankness the influence of his habits and tensions on his somatic (physical) complaints and provide a colorful background for an analysis of his numerous symptoms. In turn, there can be little doubt of the effect of his symptoms in influencing his moods and his work. Although serious organic disease was an almost constantly recurring accompaniment of the latter third of his life, an equally important component of Thackeray's ill health can be attributed to intemperate eating and drinking and neurotic disturbances. Interest in the exact diagnosis of his various ailments must remain somewhat speculative, because of the lack of precise information, but, for the most part, detailed descriptions of various symptoms gleaned from his letters render a fairly adequate analysis quite within the realm of possibility.¹

As a young man he seems to have been endowed with good general health and of normal physical build. His habits, even while

¹ See Index under "Health" and especially I: 17, 21n., 24, 26, 79, 81, 126, 191, 468; II: 40, 97, 112, 148, 346, 677, 678; III: 426, 469; IV: 25, 78, 142. Significant information appears in the recollections of contemporaries, e.g., John Cordy Jeaffreson, *A Book of Recollections*, I, 258-259, 299-301; and Richard Bedingfield, in *Cassell's Magazine* II, vol. 30, p. 105.

at Charterhouse School, where he was described as a rosy-faced, stout, broad-set boy, were sedentary. A suggestion as to future tendencies is to be found in the statement that he was "gustative." As a boy he had erysipelas, and throughout his life had numerous upper respiratory infections, sore throats, and at least one attack designated as "illfuelza." Dental caries and abscesses common to his generation were frequently noted, and are not surprising in view of the prevailing lack of good dental hygiene and his intemperate eating habits. Eventually dentures were necessary at the age of forty-eight, but not until he had suffered from many tooth-aches and "swelled chops" which at times prevented him from chewing properly.

While at Charterhouse School (aet. 14-17) he first describes severe headaches which were undoubtedly of nervous origin and seem to have been directly associated with the persecutions of a rigid headmaster, who treated him "with manifest unkindness and injustice," and with examinations. These headaches at times were so severe as to require the application of leeches. In later years headaches appear to have frequently accompanied overwork or overindulgence. Thus he mentions headaches due to prolonged writing and a severe attack "after Dickens's ball" (1848). At times his headache was a "cursed" one, which prevented him "from working to any advantage." Associated visual disturbances are suggested at times, and the possibility of migraine is not particularly unlikely.

More prominent, however, is the complaint of "bowowels" or frank digestive disturbances that runs throughout his communications to family and friends like a constant theme. These stomach and intestinal difficulties seem to have been due, in large part, to extreme dietary indiscretions and intemperance in the use of alcohol. Constant reference is made to these two habits, and at times Thackeray flagellates himself for his indiscretions and resulting physical unhappiness but without any lasting success in correcting his acknowledged faults.

Purgation followed innumerable digestive upsets, and the frequent use of calomel, salts, colocynth, magnesia, podophyllin, and

similar drugs, recalls the popular remedies of the time and emphasizes the fact that Thackeray's normal functions were constantly upset by irregular habits, overeating, overdrinking, anxiety, and fatigue. At seventeen he first records that he felt very ill and took calomel and salts for relief. In 1832 (aet. 21) he notes a merry party after which he went to bed with "a couple of pills in my internals" while others finished up the feast. In 1842 (aet. 31) he is sorry "as how shouldn't a man be who has a taste for Portwine and good company?" A year later he comments that he went out to dinner every day in the week and adds, "This racket agrees better with me than a quieter life." But remorse returned with physical discomfort, and he noted the "usual feverish symptoms in the morning," following a dinner at Parke's, and remarked, "Can't I for Heaven's sake, be moderate?" In 1850 he left "town and its fleshpots" for the Continent, and saw Dieppe "only . . . with such bilious eyes as a man deserves who dines out every day of his life." "I had exactly 4 times as much wine as was good for me and woke sick and ill and have been ill & sick ever since." He affirmed later that he was wrong in drinking too much and keeping too late hours, yet his awareness of this fault did not keep him from repeatedly landing in a "bed of sickness" as he did in 1855 after the Lord Mayor's dinner and "the whiskey & water afterwards." He described himself as a "two bottle man" and as one who behaved "like a schoolboy at a Christmas feast, eating everything that is offered to me, everything that comes my way. The season plays the devil with me, because I dine out a great deal, and I am in no sense my own master at any dinner-table but my own, and even at my own table I can't control my wicked appetite, when I am entertaining a lot of people." After a severe attack of cramps and "spasms" in 1857 (aet. 46), he was asked if he had taken the best medical advice. Thackeray said that he had, "but what is the use of advice if you don't follow it? . . . They tell me not to drink, and I *do* drink. They tell me not to smoke, and I *do* smoke. They tell me not to eat, and I *do* eat. In short, I do everything that I am desired not to do, and, therefore, what am I to expect?"

It is highly probable that this lack of control was in part due

to a sense of insecurity and intense loneliness following his wife's mental deterioration, which completely deprived him of her company and affection only four years after their marriage. This terrible calamity must have driven him to seek solace in food, drink, and social pleasures to escape from that which "makes my heart sick to be parted from her." His grief at times overwhelmed him, and "every now and then," writes Thackeray, "turns up something . . . which knocks me quite down and makes me cry like a child. I get melancholy, too, being with the children." As his acquaintance Jeaffreson wrote, "In truth, everything that was gravely irregular and hurtful in Thackeray's way of living, from the close of 1840 to the year of his death was mainly referable to his conjugal bereavement. Had his marriage afforded him for twenty-five years the same measure of felicity which it yielded him before the first manifestations of his wife's nervous failure, Thackeray might and doubtless would still have been rather too fond of gaiety and good cheer, but his wife's influence would have preserved him from the habits of gustatory self-indulgence, which resulted in the physical disorders that eventually deprived the world of his splendid genius."

At the age of thirty-eight he suffered from an acute febrile episode that very nearly caused his death. It was variously diagnosed as "cholera," "gastric fever," "bilious fever," and "intermittent fever," and for a month he was critically ill. Following a long convalescence at Brighton he recovered, but it may be said that his health was definitely impaired from then on. An exact diagnosis is not possible, but it is highly probable that this illness was caused by typhoid fever, a malady that was all too common at this particular period.

As early as 1840 (aet. 29) Thackeray wrote of a condition which caused him untold suffering until his death in 1863. He mentioned that "As soon as I see myself decently in the way of making money & have had my stricture cured I will insure my life." Lacking any evidence to the contrary, it is logical to assume that such a urethral stricture was due to an earlier venereal infection, although serious local injury could have produced such a condition. What-

ever the cause, the result was a constantly recurring set of symptoms of discomfort, pain, partial obstruction requiring painful instrumentation, local infection, and possibly kidney infection with chills and fever.

In 1843 he was laid up for six weeks as the result of an abscess in relation to the stricture. He refused the aid of doctors, undoubtedly preferring to avoid the suffering caused by treatment without anesthesia, and ended by "curing it" himself. A few years later he "staved off the old complaint." Bladder irritation caused intermittent trouble, and in his closing years he was compelled to go so frequently to Sir Henry Thompson for surgical treatment that at times he dared not leave London. In 1859, four years before his death, he writes bitterly, "My own old enemy gives me rather serious cause for disquiet — not the spasms — the hydraulics — a constant accompaniment of those disorders is disordered spirits."

Added to these difficulties was another chronic condition acquired in Rome in the latter part of 1853. Again an accurate diagnosis cannot be assured, but there can be little doubt that this malady was due to a severe malarial (tertian) infestation, at that time common in Italy. Characteristically relapses occurred so that he writes from England in September, 1855, "Since my visit to Italy 20 months since about every month I have had 2 days illness sometimes spasms, sometimes aguish fever." Two years later he felt it necessary to travel with a servant on account of "obstinate attacks of Roman (bilious) fever w^h has had hold of me these 4 years past, and seizes me and prostrates me every month or so." Quinine and purges were used freely, but gave only temporary control of the attacks.

To this long list of bodily ailments may be added that of joint troubles. At the age of seventeen he writes of his "gout" but gives no details except that he obtained relief by using hot water "for my foots." "Rheumatism" involving shoulder joints and face was noted in a letter to his mother two years later, of such severity that "I could not use my arms, & afterwards for a considerable period I could not use my teeth!" In 1840 he again wrote his mother,

"I think I have a touch of the gout really & truly, for 3 months there has been a regular ceaseless pain in my great to [*sic*], not sewere but steady & he looks red, this is the beginning of gout all my friends inform me, & I suppose that 1 day or other I must look for the completion of it." On numerous occasions he sprained his ankle, which may have been easily traumatized, and one such accident immediately preceded his nearly fatal illness in 1849. Whether he actually suffered from true gout is a question that cannot be answered. It is more probable that he had recurrent attacks of rheumatoid or infectious arthritis, possibly in association with serious dental sepsis, inasmuch as there is no mention of gouty (joint) symptoms in the closing years of his life when overeating and overdrinking were constantly repeated events.

During the last ten years of his life one encounters a constantly recurring theme of "spasms," vomiting, diarrhea, purgation, pain, chills, and fever. In spite of his disabilities, Thackeray wrote, traveled, and lectured continuously. During an American tour in 1855-1856 he "overworked, overdined, oversupped, overvisited." From Boston he writes, "three days ago I fell ill and have passed two since in great pain and comfort in my bed room." As early as 1853 (aet. 42) his mixture of melancholy and elation is summed up in the note that, "I don't think my course is to be a long one. — I've no reason why. My health is famous but when mayn't it drop? — If I last another year there will be £300 a year for you *young* ones." Thus he lived, worked, and suffered. Because of overindulgence in his "flesh pots" he became stout and admitted a weight of fifteen stone (210 lbs.). As a result of prolonged illness, however, his appearance was much altered for some time before his death, and he was thin at fifty.

On December 20, 1863, he wrote what was probably his last letter, but he was said to have been "well and full of fun two days later." He dined out on December 23rd, retired, and after midnight had a violent retching attack which resulted in the rupture of a cerebral vessel and death. A friend wrote, "It was apoplexy, after all, and I don't think that what he had suffered from so long

had much, if anything to do with it." The genius of the great novelist had finally succumbed to his insatiable need for good company and good cheer.

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A THACKERAY GENEALOGY

The following tables are compiled for the most part from *Memorials* and *Ritchies in India*, though some information has been added from other sources:

TABLE I (1-26): Archdeacon Thomas Thackeray (1693-1760) and his Descendants.

TABLE II (27-49): The Descendants of Thomas Thackeray of Cambridge (1736-1806).

TABLE III (50-76): The Descendants of William Makepeace Thackeray (1749-1813).

TABLE IV (77-97): The Descendants of John Talbot Shakespear (d. 1825).

TABLE V (98-107): The Descendants of Richmond Thackeray (1781-1815).

TABLE VI (108-115): The Descendants of John Ritchie (d. 1849).

TABLE I (1-26)

- (1) Archdeacon Thomas Thackeray
(1693-1760)
m. (1729)
(2) Ann Woodward
(1709-1797)

mas (16-1806) 1763) a Whish (17-1830)	(5) Frederic (1736-1832) m. (1767) (6) Elizabeth Aldridge (1736-1816)	(7) Jane (1739-1810) m. (1772) (8) Major James Rennell (1742-1830)	(9) Theodosia (1742-1830)	(10) William Mak (1749-1813) m. (1776) (11) Amelia Richr (1757-1810)
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BLE II (27-49)

TABLE III

2) Frederic Rennell (1775-1860) m. (1825)	(14) George (1777-1850) m. (1816)	six other children
3) Lady Elizabeth Mary Carnegie (1798?-1886)	(15) Mary Ann Cottin (d. 1818)	(16) Jane (1777-1863) m. (1809) (17) Vice Admiral Sir John Tremayne Rodd (d. 1838)
	(19) Mary Ann (1817-1879)	three other children

8) Mary Elizabeth	seven other children	(20) James m. (1853)	(22) Alicia Mary m. (1841)	(24) Frances Jane
		(21) Elizabeth Anne Thompson	(23) Serjeant Gaselee	(1815-1840)

TABLE II (27-49)

(3) Thomas Thackeray of Cambridge

(1736-1806)

m. (1763)

(4) Lydia Whish

(1737-1830)

(34) Frederic

(1774-1852)

m. first (1812)

(35) Mrs. William

Francis

(d. 1820)

one child

(36) m. second (1821)

Mary Elizabeth Crick

(1793-1873)

(47) Frederick

three other
children

(37) Martin

(1783-1864)

m. (1834)

(38) Augusta Yenn

(d. 1869)

(39) Joseph

(1784-1832)

m.

(40) Susan Harden

(d. 1846)

(41) Jane Townley

(1788-1871)

m. (1813)

(42) George Pryme

(1781-1868)

nine other ch

(48) Alicia

m. (1837)

(49) William Joseph Bayne

(d. 1844)

one other c

two children

TABLE III (50-76)

(10) William Makepeace Thackeray

(1749-1813)

m. (1776)

(11) Amelia Richmond Webb

(1757-1810)

o) Emily (1780-1824) m. (1803)	(52) Richmond (1781-1815) m. (1810)	(54) Augusta (1785-1849) m. first	(57) Charlotte Sarah (1786-1854) m.	(59) Francis (1793-1842) m. (1829)
1) John Talbot Shakespear (d. 1825)	(53) Anne Becher (1792-1864)	(55) Mr. Elliot m. second	(58) John Ritchie (d. 1849)	(60) Anne Shakespear (d. 1850)
TABLE IV (77-97)	TABLE V (98-107)		TABLE VI (108-115)	

(64) Mary Augusta m. (1858)	(66) Francis Talbot (1831-1832)	(67) Francis St. J. (1832?-1911) m. (1860)
(65) G. N. Thackwell		(68) Louise Katherine Irvine (1831?-1880)

five children

TABLE V (98-107)

(52) Richmond Thackeray

(1781-1815)

m. (1810)

(53) Anne Becher ¹

(1792-1864)

|

(98) WILLIAM MAKEPEACE

(1811-1863)

m. (1836)

(99) Isabella Shawe

(1820-1893)

|

(100) Anne Isabella

(1837-1919)

m. (1877)

(101) Sir Richmond Ritchie

(d. 1913)

|

(102) Jane

(1838-1839)

(103) Harriet Marian

(1840-1875)

m. (1867)

(104) Sir Leslie Stephen ²

(1832-1904)

|

(105) Hester Thackeray

(106) William

(107) Laura

¹ In 1817 Mrs. Thackeray remarried, her second husband being Captain Henry Carmichael-Smyth.

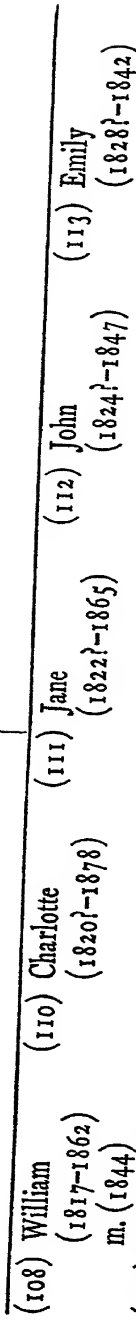
² Stephen remarried in 1878, his second wife being Mrs. Herbert Duckworth. One of his children by this marriage was Virginia Woolf.

TABLE VI (108-115)

(57) Charlotte Sarah Thackeray
(1786-1854)

m.

(58) John Ritchie
(d. 1849)



(114) Augusta (115) Blanche six other children

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AM	<i>Ainsworth's Magazine</i>
A.T.	Anne Thackeray
B	<i>Britannia</i>
B., Mrs.	Mrs. Brookfield
BFR	<i>British and Foreign Review</i>
CM	<i>Cornhill Magazine</i>
C-S	Carmichael-Smyth
DN	<i>Daily News</i>
E	<i>Examiner</i>
ER	<i>Edinburgh Review</i>
FG	Edward FitzGerald
FM	<i>Fraser's Magazine</i>
FQR	<i>Foreign Quarterly Review</i>
G.	Genealogy
GP	Major Carmichael-Smyth
H.T.	Harriet Thackeray
I.T.	Isabella Thackeray
K	<i>Keepsake</i>
LWR	<i>London and Westminster Review</i>
MC	<i>Morning Chronicle</i>
NBR	<i>North British Review</i>
NMM	<i>New Monthly Magazine</i>
NS	<i>National Standard</i>
P	<i>Punch</i>
PT	<i>Pictorial Times</i>
QR	<i>Quarterly Review</i>
S	<i>Spectator</i>
S.B.	<i>Sketch Book</i>
SLM	<i>Southern Literary Messenger</i>
T.	Thackeray
TL	<i>Times, London</i>
V.F.	<i>Vanity Fair</i>

NOTE ON THE INDEX

This index comprises two parts; the first is a general index which includes all names mentioned in the text and footnotes, the second is an index of Thackeray's works.

In the general index, there is no entry on Thackeray himself; subjects such as Thackeray's health have been indexed under Health. All titled people have been indexed under the highest title they attained; where the family name is better known than the honor, the family name is indexed. Wives usually follow their husbands in order of arrangement. In some cases more or less tenuous references have been indexed, for example, a reference to "Eugenie Crowe's husband" will be found indexed under Robert Wynne, while there is no direct reference to his name on the page. Because of space limitations modifications have been omitted wherever possible; in extensive entries, such as those covering the Thackeray children, modifications have been arranged at the head of the entry, with all other page references following.

In general place names have been omitted, since the chronology in Volume I shows where Thackeray was at any given time. The place names which are included indicate a direct comment by Thackeray.

The general index also includes all books and periodicals cited in the text, and those which have been quoted extensively in the footnotes. These titles will be found under their author's names.

The second index includes all Thackeray's works mentioned in the letters or in the footnotes. Characters from the works have been indexed under the book in which they appear. There are also some general headings, such as Projects (works and ideas for works which Thackeray never followed out), Poetry, and Reviews.

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